

III International Seminar on Mountain Tourism

Sustainable Tourism in the Montane Protected Areas

Building Partnership between NGOs' and
Managers of Protected Areas



SEMINAR REPORT



Sucha Beskidzka
25th - 28th October 2007

International Seminar organized by

International Friends of Nature (NFI);

Institute of Tourism and Recreation, Academy of Physical Education in Cracow;

Polish Tourist Country Lovers' Society (PTTK) – Cracow Academic Section;

in co-operation with:

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Executive Summary

From 25 to 28 October 2007, Sucha Beskidzka – the old town laying at the foot of the Beskid Żywiecki – played host to the III International Seminar on Mountain Tourism entitled: “Sustainable Tourism in the Montane Protected Areas. Building Partnership Between NGOs’ and Managers of Protected Areas”.

The Seminar was organised by: International Friends of Nature, Polish Tourist Country Lovers’ Society (PTTK) – Cracow Academic Section and Institute of Tourism and Recreation of Academy of Physical Education in Cracow in co-operation with Babia Góra Biosphere Reserve (Western Carpathians) and Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE).

The organizers set out to create an opportunity for discussion, exchange of information, experience and ideas in topics which included:

- new trends in mountain tourism and evolution of protected areas management;
- identifying NGOs’ dealing with tourism in the mountains;
- the role of traditional tourist societies in shaping modern mountain tourism;
- the reasons of disagreements between protected areas authorities and NGOs’;
- special role of biosphere reserves in implementing principles of sustainable tourism;
- case studies of positive and negative examples.

The seminar brought together 23 participants from 9 European countries, including park and biosphere reserves managers responsible for tourism and environmental education, representatives of local and international tourism organisations, scientists, mountain guides, foresters, all of whom involved in the topics outlined above.

The Seminar provided participants with an opportunity to visit the Babia Góra Biosphere Reserve¹ – the mountain massif (1725 m a.s.l.) of exceptional bio-cultural diversity and with more than hundred years history of mountain tourism and nature protection. Currently the Babia Góra BR is involved into international project: „Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity through Sound Tourism Development in Central and Eastern Europe”, sponsored by GEF.

October 25th

Arrival and registration of participants. Opening ceremony. „Potlach” dinner.

The Seminar started in the afternoon. After a formal opening and self-introduction of the participants, dr Tomasz Pasierbek from Babia Góra National Park gave a presentation providing basic background information about the Babia Góra Biosphere Reserve. Then, Stephanie Roth from the ETE presented general tasks and manners of realization of international GEF project entitled: “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity through Sound Tourism Development in Central and Eastern Europe”, where three biosphere reserves are involved in: Aggtelek (H), Babia Góra (PL) and Sumava (CZ). These talks continued until late evening during a “potlach” party, which was enriched by many kinds of local food brought by participants from their countries.

October 26th

Field excursion, presentation of Babia Góra Biosphere Reserve and discussion of conference topics.

The second day was devoted to a field study excursion. The aim was to familiarize the participants with chosen effects of GEF project and with nature of the Babia Góra National Park.

The field excursion was guided by a member of management of the Babia Góra NP – mgr inż. Tomasz Lamorski. Information about the GEF project was



¹ Babia Góra is the main and the highest part of Beskid Żywiecki.

presented during the whole excursion also by Ms. Stephanie Roth (ETE). The first stop was the centre of ecological education located in building of Babia Góra NP Headquarters in Zawoja, which was equipped with new facilities within support of GEF project.



Afterwards participants were transferred by bus to Krowiarki Pass (1012 m. a.s.l.), where the main entrance to Babia Góra NP is situated. There is also one of several stops for a bus line, which is activated in summer season for improving tourists transport between northern and southern sides of Babia Góra massif. This investment was created by the GEF project.

From Krowiarki Pass participants reached on foot Sokolica summit (1367 m. a.s.l.). During that not long but intensive hike they were informed with the rules of active and strict nature protection and the examples of forest communities of Babia Góra.

After that tour participants returned to the Krowiarki Pass and they were transferred to the southern side of Babia Góra massif – to Orawa¹, where they visited the museum of local wooden architecture in the village of Zubrzyca Górna. Within the GEF project two shepherd's huts were reconstructed, where visitors may observe the local way of cheese production.

Participants continued the field excursion towards another shepherd's hut situated on the border of national park. In that hut, which is intended for resting of tourists, participants had a nice meal.

The next stop was stylish shepherd's hut built within support of GEF project on a pasture above Zubrzyca Górna. This hut is located near the main road, so it encourages tourists to stop and buy local smoky kind of cheese called "oscypek". Through this activity it was possible to support in this region traditional shepherd's economy. It is also important to keep high biodiversity of meadow plant communities.



After returning to the northern side of Babia Góra to Zawoja, participants stopped for a while in a small museum of folk architecture, which was created on initiative of Polish Tourist Country Lovers' Society (PTTK) – Section of Sucha Beskidzka – and is maintained by this organisation. This day the dinner was provided in the hundred-year-old wooden house.



In the evening participants gathered again for an informal meeting which generated a long discussion based on the experiences and observations encountered during the day.

The excursion was a good starting point to get into the issue and to understand problems and challenges of tourism in the montane protected areas.

October 27th

Plenary session and discussion in working groups.
Banquet.

The next day was divided into two parts: a plenary session, until early afternoon which was then followed by workshops. Following a formal opening a Motion Committee was elected from the group (see below) charged with the task of preparing a Seminar Declaration, which has to be adopted in the concluding session.

¹ Orawa is the historical and cultural region situated at the southern foot of the Babia Góra massif, both on the Polish and the Slovak lands.



The Plenary session was devoted to a series of presentations by participants, addressing the topic issues referred to above. (See the chapter "Presentations" for details). All the speakers generated considerable interest within the group, provoking lots of questions and discussions.

In the afternoon participants were divided into two groups to arrive with answers for the following questions, formulated during previous discussions:

- Why mountain protected areas are important for tourists?
- Are tourists important for mountainous protected areas? Why are they important?
- Is the co-operation necessary for both: mountain protected areas and tourists?
- What are the main obstacles and misunderstandings which make co-operation of both parties difficult?
- What should be done to facilitate the process of co-operation between managers of mountain protected areas and tourists?

The aim of these work groups was to prepare proposals for the plenary discussion on the Declaration.

The day finished in an antique wooden inn, situated in the centre of Sucha Beskidzka, with local music and a dinner.

October 28th

Plenary session: reports from the working groups. General discussion of the Declaration. Close of Seminar.

The last morning was again set aside for a plenary session. Reporters from each working group presented conclusions worked out during their working sessions. All participants then discussed the structure and the content of the Seminar Declaration submitted by the Motion Committee. After a rich debate the participants agreed on a draft-version of the declaration. Due to a lack of time, it was impossible to formulate the full text of the Declaration. Therefore the participants agreed that the two members of the Motion Committee, Piotr Dąbrowski and Bartosz Szczechowicz, should draft a full version of the Seminar Declaration, which would then be sent out to all participants for final remarks and corrections. After that, final version of declaration would be approved after an electronic consultation.



It is also important to note that during the Seminar all participants accepted the idea of creation the national park in the Tarcu Mountains (Southern Carpathians), presented by Romanian delegation.

The Seminar was closed at about midday.

The debates were chaired jointly by Piotr Dąbrowski and Miroslav Prokes.

The Motion Committee consisted of: Judit Miklos, Ondrej Vitek, Piotr Dąbrowski (chairman) and Bartosz Szczechowicz.

Seminar Program

25th October

Arrivals and registration of participants

18.30

Opening ceremony. Participants' self-presentation

19.00 – 20.00

Introduction to the Friday excursion: Nature of the Babia Gora Biosphere Reserve – Tomasz Pasierbek, Babia Gora National Park, Zawoja, Poland

General overview of the GEF Project – Stephanie Roth, ETE, Germany

20.30

Informal „potlach” dinner.

26th October

All day:

Presentation of Babia Gora Biosphere Reserve and the results of GEF Project

Field excursion guided by Tomasz Lamorski (Babia Gora National Park) and Stephanie Roth (ETE)

Conference topics will be discussed during excursion and evening meeting.

27th October

Plenary session

9.00 – 10.45

Election of the Chairpersons and the Motion Committee

Judit Miklos, Institut fur Sozialwissenschaftliche Forschung e.V., München, Germany

” Building up a Local Network for Sustainable Development in the Carpathians of Romania. Experiences of a Project”

Valentina Castellani, University of Milano, Department of Environmental Science, Italy

”Strategy for sustainable mountain tourism: public private synergy for local development”.

Bartosz Szczechowicz, Academy of Physical Education, Institute of Tourism and Recreation, Cracow

”Sustainable development in the mountain areas – identification of source of conflict between interests of local communities and protection of nature.”

10.45 – 11.15

Coffee break

11.15 – 13.00

Mehmet Somuncu, Ankara University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Geography, Ankara, Turkey

”Sustainable Tourism in the Kaçkar Mountain National Park, Turkey”

Bernadetta Zawilińska, University of Economy, Krakow

”Cooperation of the landscape parks management in the Polish Carpathians with local governments and non-governmental organizations”

Ondrej Vitek, Agency for Nature Protection, Praha, Czech Republic
"Problems of tourism and sports in Czech protected areas".

Radu Octavian Topai, Association Altitudine, Timisoara, Romania
"Creating a National Park in the Tarcu Mountains. Challenges and outlook for tourism."

13.00 – 14.30
Lunch break

14.30 – 16.30
Katarzyna Śliwa, Jagiellonian University, Institute of European Studies, Kraków, Poland
"Bottom-up Approach in Local Tourism Management Based on the Partnerships. Case Study of the Cairngorms National Park in Scotland."

Tomasz Lamorski, Babia Gora National Park, Zawoja, Poland
"Negotiation as a Tool for Preparation of "Sustainable Tourism Development" Project
Case study of the Babia Góra National Park / Biosphere Reserve"

Nora Schuylenburg, Joop Spijker, Dutch Alpine Platform, The Netherlands
"Sustainable Tourism in Mountain Areas: Mountain Protection at Sea Level"

Wilfried Meulenbergs, Nature Friends International, Vienna, Austria
"Landscape of the Year, NGO and Local Partners Shaking Hands.
How International Friends of Nature Work to Build Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism"

16.30 – 17.00
Coffee break

17.00 – 19.00
Discussion in working groups

20.00
Banquet

28th October

9.00 – 10.30
Reports from the working groups. General discussion

10.30 – 11.00
Coffee break, meeting of the Motion Committee.

11.00 – 12.00
Presentation, discussion and adoption of Declaration. Close of the Seminar.

12.00
Lunch

Presentations

This chapter contains texts or summaries of the presentations, which were delivered during the seminar. They were published as they were sent by their authors, with only insignificant changes to standardize the edition.

Building up a Local Network for Sustainable Development in the Carpathians of Romania

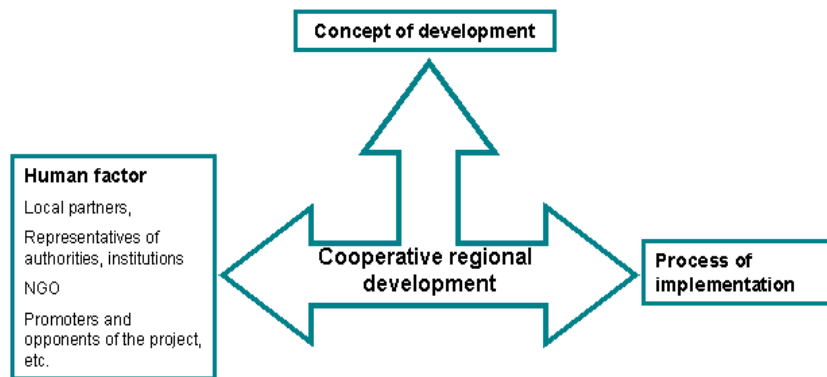
Experiences of a Project

Judit Miklos; Institut für Sozialwissenschaftliche Forschung e.V., München, Germany

Topic and goal of this presentation

- Presenting a few important experiences gained by the Carpathian Project of ISF München while building up a local network for sustainable development of the Carpathians in Romania (period: July 2006-August 2007)
- Visualizing the bottom-up-method with real examples, offering our experiences as possible „tools“ for similar projects and subject for discussion.

A few essential elements of cooperative regional development (Schmidt et al, 2002)



The Carpathian Project of ISF München

- It is one of the 19 projects of the network “Carpathian Project” (financed by the EU programme INTERREG IIIB/ CADSES) aiming at the sustainable development of a European mountain region: the Carpathians.
- Vision of the Carpathian Project of ISF München is the construction of a transnational mountain hut and trail network through the Carpathians. First step of implementation: conception and implementation of sustainable tourism development in the Fagaras Mountains in Romania.

Main activities in the pilot region (July 2006-August 2007):

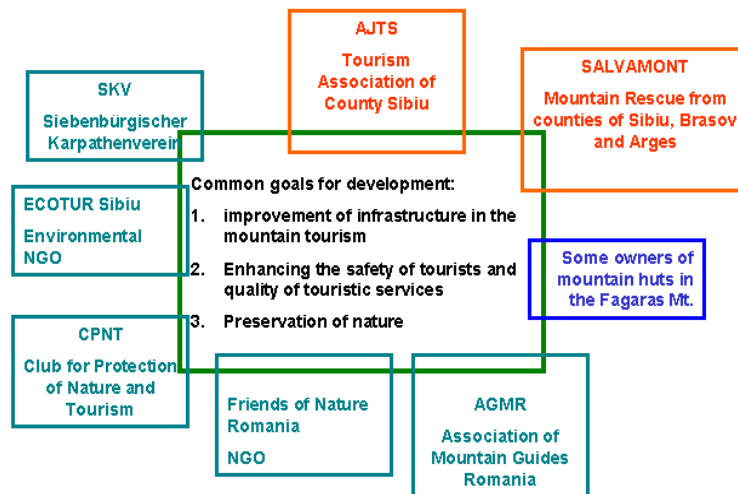
- Investigation about tourism infrastructure and main local stakeholders in the pilot region, July 2006 Romania
- 1st Workshop in Sibiu/ Romania, September 2006
- Survey of accommodations in the Fagaras Mountains, November 2006
- First edition of a brochure of accommodations for an information-campaign, May 2007
- 2nd Workshop in Brasov/ Romania, May 2007
- Exhibition about modern hiking tradition in Sibiu/ Romania, August 2007
- Second edition of the brochure, August 2007

I. Workshop of the Carpathian Project of ISF München

Results and impacts on local cooperation:

- The workshop gathered for the first time the main local stakeholders of mountain tourism.
- The discussions allowed identification of common fields of problems and activities (also fields of competition among them!). More importantly, they realised that the solution of the problems overloads the solitary actor, so cooperation is needed.
- Idea 1: foundation of an umbrella organisation
- Idea 2: an information campaign promoting the Fagaras Mt. as an attractive touristic destination
- A 'core group' of local partners developed ->

The 'Core group' after the I. Workshop:



Survey of mountain accommodations in the Fagaras Mt., November 2006

- Cooperating with a local partner had various organisational, logistic and technical advantages.

Positive side effects of the survey for the project:

- Wide promotion of the project in the pilot-region (new contacts for the II. Workshop)
- It offered the first concrete possibility to cooperation among the members of the 'core group'

Positive side effects for the local partner:

- New contacts (potential cooperation partners?)
- Better knowledge of the current mountain infrastructure in the Fagaras Mt. (thus raising the level of expertise of this association)

II. Workshop of the Carpathian Project of ISF München (May 2007, Brasov Romania)

A few remarks:

- Competition among similar NGO in the project intensified. This led to intensification of own activities (with some exceptions).
- Cooperation and mutual help among some of the members of the 'core group' intensified (e.g. between the mountain rescue teams and the group CPNT).

First „product“ of the project:

The brochure (compiled from the survey data) was presented.

A few results and impacts on the local/ regional network: ->

WG 1: Standards of qualification for mountain guides

Results and impacts:

- Cooperation between the Association of Mountain Guides Romania AGMR and the educational expert from the National Board for Adult Training, Bucharest developed. Thus AGMR managed to receive (national) accreditation for one of its qualification courses. ISF München is currently assisting AGMR in adhering to the International Association of Mountain Guides.

WG 2: Exhibition about local hiking culture in Sibiu

Results and impacts:

- The Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein SKV organized the exhibition in Sibiu/ Romania (1-7th of August 2007). The local mountain rescue team, German partner (Sektion Karpaten of the Deutscher Alpenverein) and other few local NGO contributed with exhibits and pictures.
- ISF München participated with a presentation about the results of the survey of accommodations.

WG 3: Foundation of an umbrella association

Results and impacts:

- The umbrella association uniting all stakeholders in the Fagaras Mt. is still being constituted under the coordination of the Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein SKV. Some future members have already designed a first project together (aiming the promotion of Transylvania as a tourist destination).

Further impacts of the II. Workshop on the local/regional network:

- A second edition of the brochure was prepared and distributed by two local partners.
- Cooperation among participants of the 'core group' for a concrete action: cleaning the shore of a lake in the Fagaras Mt. The very engaged student group from the university in Cluj-Napoca called Green Echoes contacted some members of the 'core group' for logistic, bureaucratic and material help (however no volunteers).

Conclusions

- Real social fieldwork was very helpful in exploring and understanding the (infra)structure of our pilot-region.
- Meeting the local stakeholders of our project revealed their own skills, perspectives, potentials and problems – all these are important resources when defining a local network and individual tasks.
- The status of the local partners (public servants and/or private NGO, fulltime-/ parttime-/ volunteer-position) is very important. It determines their range of contacts, their freedom of action, the speed of the implementation process (institutionalisation of solutions).
- Charismatic persons proved to be good promoters of the project and its aims.
- Concrete goals (instead of abstract goals) provide a better basis for cooperation.

Strategy for Sustainable Mountain Tourism

A Private – Public Synergy for Local Development

Valentina Castellani; University of Milano, Department of Environmental Science, Italy

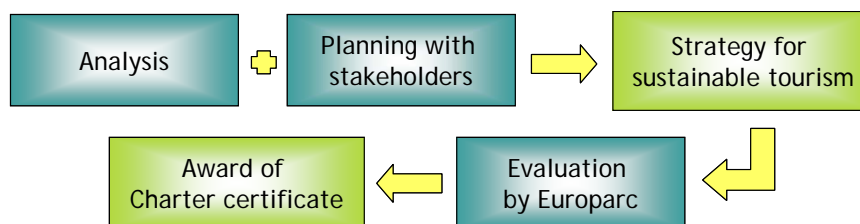
Sustainable Tourism and Ecotourism are widely recognized as a way for enhancing local development and protect natural environment and traditional & cultural heritage (see, for example, the Alpine Convention, protocol Tourism). In this context, the implementation of participated process for planning strategies of development, also for sustainable tourism and ecotourism, can be very useful. The case study presented here is an application of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, developed by Europarc Federation (the European Federation of Parks) in 1995.

European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas is an innovative planning instrument, to enhance sustainable tourism in protected areas; signers of the European Charter are committed to implementing a local strategy for 'sustainable tourism', furthering cooperation and implementing joint actions with local partners. Today in Europe 47 Protected Areas have already been awarded with the European Charter and 16 are now submitting their application to Europarc Federation; 4 protected areas of these 16 are located in Italy, in Lombardy Region, and are co-operating in the process of developing a regional strategy for sustainable tourism, with special attention to local characteristics of every single area.

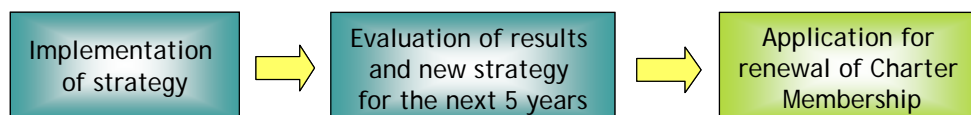
The process of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas is planned to last 7 years: first two years are for the development of a strategy of action for sustainable tourism, the next five years are for the implementation of this strategy. At the end of every step there is an evaluation by Europarc: the first one is for the award of Charter Certificate to the protected area and the second one is for the evaluation of results and the renewal of Charter membership. It is important to notice that the strategy for sustainable tourism has to be based on the results of an analysis of local situation (environmental, economic and social aspect, related with tourism sector) made by experts, and the results of the consultation and planning process done with local stakeholders (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 – European Charter process:

2 years: **development of a strategy** for sustainable tourism



5 years: **implementation of strategy**



In the Charter text eight principles are listed, to address the whole process and the definition of the strategy of action. The eight principles are:

1. Protecting natural and cultural heritage
2. Meeting visitor needs – granting quality of tourist experience
3. Improving the communication about the area
4. Developing tourism products relating to protected areas
5. Provide appropriate training to protected area managers and tourism operators
6. Maintaining local quality of life
7. Providing benefits to the local economy
8. Managing visitor flows to prevent and reduce impacts

Accordingly to these principles, the aim of the process is the development of new tourism products related to the protected areas, while protecting natural environment and granting benefits and a good quality of life for local residents.

The case study presented in this Seminar is the implementation of European Charter for Sustainable Tourism by Alpi Lepontine Mountain Community¹, which is an area in Lombardy Region, in Northern Italy, near Switzerland. Alpi Lepontine area can be divided in two different sub-areas: the first one consists of some municipalities near Lugano and Como lakes, with relevant tourists' flows and high levels of urbanization; the second one consists of some other municipalities in a more depressed mountain area, where there are only few villages with low population density and a lower level of tourism development.

There are two protected areas candidate to European Charter: one is "Riserva Naturale Lago di Piano", which is an area around a small lake in the more developed area; another is "Area di Rilevanza Ambientale Alto Lario Alpi Lepontine", which is a local protected area over 1000 m a.s.l.. Both areas are managed by Alpi Lepontine Mountain Community, which is a union of 13 municipalities. There are 16003 people living in the Mountain Community area and only 650 of these live within the protected areas borders.

Tourism in Alpi Lepontine reflects the differentiation in the two sub-areas: there is an high density of tourists in the municipalities near the lakes (in the plain part of Alpi Lepontine area) and only few tourists and tourist structures in the mountain area. In total Alpi Lepontine registers 200.000 overnights per year: the problem is that the overnights are concentrated in some municipalities (especially two or three near the lakes) and in the summer period, so the pressure on the environment is very significant.

Regarding hospitality structures, there are some hotels, a lot of camping sites and second houses (lot of them are owned by foreigners and remain empty for the greatest part of the year); besides, there are only few agritourism and Bed&Breakfast structures, which are proved to have lower impact on natural environment, because don't require the construction of new buildings.

Tourists visiting Alpi Lepontine are in great number foreigners (about 90% of all overnights), especially Dutch and Germans. Main reasons for visiting Alpi Lepontine, as expressed by tourists in questionnaire interviews, are: natural landscape (for making excursions, playing sports and camping), peacefulness and cheapness of the area (as an alternative, for example, to Como Lake area, which is quite near but more expensive).

During the process of implementation of European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, the involvement of stakeholders took place in some different ways: there were some public meetings, some single interviews and some surveys.

In September 2006 we held an opening meeting in the Visit Centre of Riserva Naturale Lago di Piano for the presentation of the process to the population; in this occasion there was a first analysis of local threats and trends, made by EASW² method, among residents. From March 2007, there was the Forum consultation, which involved four categories of stakeholders:

- Local administrators and NGO
- Tourism operators

¹ Italian Mountain Communities are administrative cluster of municipalities in mountain areas

² EASW: European Awareness Scenario Workshop

- School operators
- Farmers and trade associations

Members of the project staff had also some single interviews on specific topics with relevant subjects of the area, such as provincial tourism and environmental authorities and local organizations representatives. Moreover, during the whole process of analysis, questionnaires were submitted to tourists, tourism operators and local people, to investigate their opinion about protected areas, tourism situation and tourism offer in Alpi Lepontine. From this consultation, it was possible to identify some relevant topics identified as main threats for local development. The most important topics emerging from consultation can be summarized as:

- Low development of mountain areas.
- Low entrepreneurship, especially among young people (which are more attracted by Swiss job positions, which grant higher salaries)
- High level of urbanization in plain areas.
- Seasonality of tourism (high impacts during some parts of the year).
- Mobility (crowding of main access roads, scarcity of public transport).
- Low consciousness about environmental matter and sustainable tourism, especially among tourism operators (only 5% of operators interviewed knows what Ecolabel is, although 35% of operators are interested in obtaining an environmental label for their structure).
- Necessity of improving tourism information, especially for foreign visitors (90% of tourists interviewed suggests "providing more information" as the first action for improving fruition of the area).

On the basis of these results, some strategic actions were planned: for all these actions, both public and private partners involvement is needed to obtain good results and to develop a network of subjects able to cooperate for local development in short and long term perspective. In following table actions and stakeholders already involved or planned to be involved for the previous actions are listed.

Strategic action planned	Stakeholders involved
Identification and promotion of products for school tourism , to involve young people in the local development process and to help to deseasonalize tourism in the area.	Local schools, schools of Lombardy Region and Switzerland, Legambiente Lombardia (Local Environmental NGO), tour operators.
Development of an " albergo diffuso " system (a system of small existing structures, like private houses and second houses, with a unique reception system), to reuse existing structures and avoid new constructions. Development of agritourism and B&B structures (for the same purpose of albergo diffuso system)	Municipalities, tourism operators, local NGO promoting traditional and cultural heritage
Promotion of local products and development of a local system of production and distribution (to create a " short weaving factory ")	Farmers, "Sapori di terra, sapori di lago" (association for promotion of local products), local shops, restaurants and hospitality structures (for the distribution of products to tourists and visitors).
Organization of events linking sport and environment, to promote new tourism product related to nature and protected areas, in an "environmentally friendly" way.	Protected area managers, local administrators, and agency for events organization.
Communication campaign to improve information and promotion of the area, especially for foreign tourists: creation of web sites, multi-language leaflets and signals, integration and diffusion of existing information.	Local school for tourism and hospitality, organizers of traditional and cultural events, Mountain Community tourism office, tourism operators.

In conclusion, it can be said that Sustainable Tourism projects can be a good instrument for local sustainable development of mountain areas. In particular, Alpi Lepontine case study shows that European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas is a useful mechanism for involving stakeholder in the planning process, especially because European Charter meets the necessity of widening the concept of participation as known, for example, in Agenda 21 processes: here the participation evolves from pure consultation to active involvement of local stakeholders, both in the in planning process and in the implementation process. Through the whole process of implementation, in fact, European Charter promotes the integration of local NGOs in the group of the decision makers, especially in the fields of protection of natural environment and traditional heritage, of monitoring tourist trend and improvement of communications and relations with tourists.

Sustainable Development in the Mountain Areas – Identification of Source of Conflict Between Interests of Local Communities and Protection of Nature.

Bartosz Szczechowicz; Academy of Physical Education Cracow, Poland

Introduction

The concept of sustainable development, also in context of tourism, have been discussed many times in papers and conferences. That discussions had been firstly concentrated in the general problem of defining and explanation: what the sustainability means? Later, they have been focused on the problem: how the sustainability may be implemented in practice? In my opinion, however, the most important thing before discussing how the sustainability should be applied, is to make clear identification and explanation of potential sources of conflicts between parties engaged in the process of sustainable development, also in context of tourism. The knowledge about it is the base for searching rational and efficient activities pursuing to developing of region in the sustainable way.

Contradiction of purposes

According to the concept there are three fundamental parties engaged in the process of sustainable development: local communities, investors and environments connected with protection of nature and culture. It is important to notice, that individual targets each of the parties are considerably different:

- The interests of investors are concentrated on economic development of territory. Investors pursue to meet tourism demand by making accessible for society tourism attractions and creating tourist and general infrastructure. That activities should obviously yield some financial profits.
- The ecologists make efforts to protect nature from degradation. From their point of view investments are potential threat to their tasks because they may have effects in destruction of soil, water, air, fauna and flora, landscape. Naturally, they may have effects also in destruction of local culture: traditions, values, material products of human activities.
- Local communities, which are represented by local authorities, perceive measurable benefits from investments: new places of permanent or just temporary employment (at creating and function investment), sale market for their materials necessary to create and work investment, possibilities of creating own economic activities, as for example private quarters, restaurants, retail trade.

It is perceptible that there may be some contradictions or just disagreements between presented targets. This contradiction of purposes is particularly noticeable between interests of local community-investors and ecologists. Local communities and investors aspire usually to development tourist and general infrastructure; ecologists, on the contrary, make commonly efforts to reduce scale of investment for non-interfering in nature.

Sources of potential conflicts

Contradiction of purposes is, in my opinion, the main source of potential conflicts between all parties engaged in the process of sustainable development of tourism region. On the base of analysis of theory and some case studies it is possible to define some questions that may lead to conflicts:

1. What forms of tourism should be developed in region?

The consequence of answer to this question is decision what kind of infrastructure will be created and what will be the impact preferring form of tourism for nature.

For example: in the case of preferring skiing it will be necessary to create in some resort ski lifts, restaurants and parkings; backpacking has different requirements: refuges and trails/footpaths localized in the distance from resort. The impact of that two forms of tourism on the nature and culture metamorphosis will be prominently different.

2. What kinds of precious elements of nature exist in the region and what is the acceptable level of its transformation?

It is possible that some elements of nature existing in some territory shouldn't be changed by any kind of human activities and development of tourism will cause irrevocable losses for natural environment.

Some investments require strongly interferences in nature by for example deforestation or they cause some depletion of water supply and soil, they cut tracks of animals migration and many others.

3. What is an acceptable dimensions of tourism?

What amount of tourists (and their equipment) in territory may be accepted because it won't pollute and destroy nature?

4. What should be a capacity of infrastructure?

Should it be adapted to amount of tourists in the height of season or to average amount of tourists during a whole year?

5. What is an acceptable kind and size of waste like rubbish, gases, sewage, carbon dioxide?

6. What is an acceptable kind and size of tourism infrastructure?

What should be a kind of tourism infrastructure, its size, tourism capacity, an architecture?

7. Is it necessary to create for tourism development some general, complementary infrastructure?

It is well-known that development of tourism demands in real creation not only tourism infrastructure (like for example an accommodation, restaurants, travel agencies, tourism information, parkings, tourist tracks, agency for the hire of sports or tourists equipment and many other facilities especially for tourists) but also various kinds of complementary infrastructure, for example: roads, banks, post offices, different kinds of shops.

8. What kind of technology should be used in the new infrastructure?

For example: what kind of central heating?

9. What particularly localisation for investment is acceptable?

In the centre of resort, in the suburbs, in the territory around the resort?

10. What kinds of profits will the investment reap in real to all interested parties?

It is very important to remember that all parties interested in the process of development some resort or region should reap some benefits. It is one of the general rule of concept of sustainability.

Some of that problems may be decided by using appropriated and known indicators, but the others can be solved only in the way of dialog. In this dialog the parties should remember that they have one, common purpose: the activity that sustains ecological, social and economical integrity and preserves for future generations unchanged natural and cultural resources. That purpose can be realized only on the way of cooperation all interested parties. It is not possible in practice to implement the rules of sustainable development when each of the parties strives to realize their own, individual targets at the maximal level.

Sustainable development in region

Above considerations were connected with taking decision about potential, concrete tourism investment in concrete localisation. There is however once more problem, because sustainable development each of resorts or community may not be equivalent with sustainable development all region. Creation of plans of sustainable development in region is connected with answering for some additional questions:

- should any territory be excluded from tourism because of their attractiveness and value for nature?

- what is optimal, from sustainability point of view, deployment of planned investments in region?

Perhaps, in many cases, the answer on the first question should be positive. That answer may be however objected by local communities, which would be deprived of chance on profits from tourism business. This situation is also possible when it will be taken decision which of resorts in region would be designated for profitable tourism investment, and, consequently, which of them wouldn't. Local communities of resorts which would be excluded from investments, because of necessity of protection nature existed around them, probably also should reap some kinds of measurable benefits.

Summary

Theoretical assumptions of sustainable development concept are rational but hard to realize in practice, because there is usually a contradiction between individual purposes of all parties engaged in process – that is mainly cause of appearance serious conflicts, which concentrate in three problems:

- selection of territories for investment in region,
- decision about kind and size of investment,
- specification of benefits realized by all parties.

I am aware that in my short presentation I put many questions but I don't answered them. I hope however that problems I was talking about will permit enrich our discussion.

Sustainable Tourism in the Kaçkar Mountains National Park, Turkey

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Turkey forms a natural bridge between the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. In particular, the country occupies a unique geographical position at the crossroads between Central Asia and Middle East.

Turkey lies within the geologically young folded-mountain zone of Eurasia, which extends predominantly east to west. Its topographic structure shows the Country's high elevation in comparison to its neighbours, about one-fourth of the surface having an elevation above 1,200 m, and less than two-fifths lies below 500 m. Mountain crests exceed 2,000 m in many places, particularly in the east, where Turkey's highest mountain, Mount Agri (Mt. Ararat) reaches 5,137 m close to the borders with Armenia and Iran. Steep slopes are common throughout the Country, while flat or gently sloping land makes up barely one-sixth of the total area (Nippon Koei Co., Ltd., Recs International Inc., 2000).

Protected area management and conservation in Turkey Institutional arrangements for protected areas

The concept of protected area management and conservation in Turkey started as early as 1937 when Land Hunting Law (number 3167) was enacted. Among institutional structures responsible for protected areas of Turkey, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (EMOF), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) play important roles. Preservation of many cultural and historical assets has been included in various laws such as those on Forests, National Parks, Preservation of Natural and Historical Assets, Environment, Coasts, and the Bosphorus (Nippon Koei Co., Ltd., Recs International Inc., 2000).

The National Parks Law was enacted in 1983. The new National Park Law provides a legal framework of protected area inside and outside forest area. It defines five different types of protective status: namely, 1) National Parks, 2) Nature Parks, 3) Nature Monuments, 4) Nature Reserves, and 5) Wildlife Reserves. General Directorate of National Parks, Game and Wildlife (GDNPGW) of EMOF manages these protected areas, although some of them may be situated outside forest regimes.

The first national park in Turkey was established in 1958. Since then their numbers have increased to 38. Some of these parks, which were initially established for archeological and historical purposes, are at the same time rich habitats where biological diversity is being protected. As of 2007, there are 38 National Parks all around Turkey, and their total surfaces 874 616 hectares. 19 national parks are in the mountainous area in Turkey. One of them is the Kaçkar Mountains National Park.

The Kaçkar Mountains National Park

The Kaçkar Mountains National Park is situated in the East Black Sea Region in the north-eastern corner of Turkey. The Park was created in 1994 and covers 51,500 hectares.

The Kaçkars are the highest range in the Eastern Black Sea Mountains, and rise parallel to the coast behind Rize. The Kaçkar summit, at an altitude of 3932 meters, is the highest point in the range. The seaward slopes of the system, like their southern counterparts that face the Çoruh basin, are steep and formidable. Starting from the shore, the local topography suddenly becomes steeper toward the south. Consider that the summit of Mount Kaçkar, 3932 meters high (13,061 ft.) is only 50 kilometres from the sea as the crow flies (Somuncu, 1989). That is just thirty miles.

Extensive glacier and water erosion have given these mountains their craggy, rugged look, and they are known for the complexity and power of the streams and rivers, which rush down to the lower altitudes. In fact, this range is the third most important glacial region in Turkey following the Mount Agri (Mt. Ararat) and Cilo-Sat Mountains. Today, there are some large glaciers in the Kaçkar Mountain National Park.

Humidity along the eastern Black Sea coast is high the year round, with moderately warm summers and cool rather than cold winters. The result is rich vegetation of great variety. As the terrain slopes upward to the south, with consequently chillier air, zones of intriguingly varied flora present themselves. Along the shoreline from sea level to an altitude of 750 meters, there are deciduous trees and dense undergrowth. Between 750 and 1500 meters, some of these deciduous trees share the niche with an evergreen, the eastern spruce (*Picea orientalis*). The third band, from 1500 meters to the timberline at 2000-2100 meters, plays host to evergreen alone. And beyond there are gentle but bracing alpine meadows. Azalea (*Rhododendron*) is only seen on 3000 meters in the Kaçkar Mountain National Park in Turkey.

These forests and pastures are replete with wildlife, in an impressive list that includes the chamois, wild goat, deer, brown bear, wildcat, stone marten, pine marten, rabbit, fox, wolf, jackal, badger, lynx etc.

There are 11 villages and 44 yaylas in the National Park. (Summer pasture Turkish word is yayla.) Villagers mainly keep cattle, sheep and goats, or live off the forest, and to lesser degree they farm. Tea is far and away the leading crop of the coastal strip, Rize being Turkey's one and only producer and processor of this leaf. In the mountains there is not enough land for extensive agriculture, so livestock breeding takes its place. Livestock farming as a household activity has significant place in the local economy. In early summer, rural families move to summer pasturage with their stock. Taking place in the Alpine layer above 2000 meters in average, summer pasturage have significant functions for purposes of both animal husbandry and of passing the summer in a cooler environment (Karadeniz and Somuncu, 2003). Rural families live in wood cabins in yaylas, to return again to their villages with the approach of autumn. They trek up from the village, and back down again three months later.

Tourism in the Kaçkar Mountains National Park

Owing to both its natural features and cultural structure, the National Park has become one of the important points of attraction for mountain and this context mostly include climbing, trekking, camping, photography, flora, fauna and natural beauty-seeing, meeting the local people who live in yaylas and learning about their lifestyle. In recent years, the Park is a well-known and popular destination for Turkish tourists and is visited by a growing number of foreign tourists as well. Owing to these activities, the local people earn from accommodation, transportation, souvenir sales, guidance services, etc., which further add to rural economy. The accommodation potential of the park amounts about 1000 beds. The characteristic feature of tourism here is its seasonality having its peak during summer months. The average number of tourists per year is over 100.000 visitors.

The effects of tourism in the Kaçkar Mountains National Park

It is possible to divide the effects of tourism in the Kaçkar Mountains National Park in three categories.

- Economic effects,
- Socio-cultural effects,
- Ecological effects.

Economic effects

- The tourism of National Park provides money inflow and increase in income not only for low-income villagers who live within borders of the National Park and but also for the towns and villages around the National Park.
- Since tourism is a service-based sector that requires more manpower, the development of tourism creates new job opportunities for local people.

Socio-cultural effects

- Another positive effect of tourism is related with the employment of women. Along with the development of tourism in the national park, local women have begun to work in tourist enterprises belonging to their families. Thus, the role of women, who were engaged in housework and agricultural activities before, in the family, has started to change today.

- Parallel to development of tourism, host-guest relationship has begun to change in a positive way.
- Although not very widespread, quite high commercialization in tourism supply has begun to be observed.
- Tourism develops against traditional rural life style.

Ecological effects

- The gradual increase in the number of visitors coming to the National Park increases the pressure on the ecosystem.
- In addition to construction of hotels and pensions for tourist purposes in the park, the number of secondary houses constructed for recreational purposes also increases. While some of these buildings are in harmony with local architecture and the environment, some of them are not.
- The existing mountain and yayla roads are being broadened and new roads are being built for the higher yaylas, which have no road access. This situation results in gradual increase in the vehicle traffic density in the National Park. And this density causes parking lot problem in tourist yaylas and noise pollution.
- Parallel to increase in the number of visitors coming to the National Park, there is an increase in amount of solid and liquid wastes discharged to the natural environment.
- For meeting heating demand of accommodation enterprises in yaylas in the National Park and secondary houses whose number increases day by day, illegal tree cutting is performed in the forest. This situation is both legally and environmentally unacceptable.
- The fact that the number of pathways the mountaineers and trekkers follow in high mountainous areas and that these pathways continuously broaden in time cause erosion in steep slopes.
- There are too many solid wastes in camping areas where thousands of mountaineers camp in the area for climbing. These wastes are sometimes left to the environment where they are produced.
- Shampoo, soap and detergents that are used for cleaning purposes in villages, yaylas and camping areas in high places are directly poured into rivers. Such act damages ecosystem.

That fact that there are many negativities as well as positive developments that arise in the National Park parallel to tourism has some certain reasons including the following:

- Firstly, the National Park has no management plan yet. And the National Park Long Period Development Plan (Master plans: scale of 1:5,000), on which Ministry of Environment and Forestry still works, has not been completed yet.
- Majority of local people and tourists are not conscious enough in environmental protection.
- Along with the increase in number of tourists coming to the National Park, local people become more and more desired to earn more money. However, the desire for protecting the environment is attached secondary attention.

For this reason, with the aim of providing sustainable tourism in the National Park, national park management and some non-governmental organizations have initiated joint studies in recent years. Primary non-governmental organizations that cooperate with National Park management for improving sustainable tourism in the Kaçkar Mountains National Park are:

- Nature Association,
- Black Sea Environment Association,
- Kaçkar Mountaineering, Rafting and Ski Club.

Among these NGO's, Nature Association has made the experts prepare the Kaçkar Mountains National Park Ecotourism Management Plan in cooperation with national park management. Main objective of Kaçkar Mountains National Park Ecotourism Management Plan is: To protect biologic diversity in the Kaçkar Mountains National Park, to eliminate negative pressures on natural resources and to develop sustainable tourism activities including all related groups, in line with ecotourism principles in a structure that will contribute in improvement of socio-economic structure of local societies. However, as the master plan studies of the National Park have not been completed yet,

ecotourism management plan has not been implemented yet. At this stage, non-governmental organizations carry out activities to increase the awareness of local people in terms of sustainable tourism. To this end, under the leadership of non-governmental organizations, local people are educated on the sustainable tourism via various programs, which include specialists.

Conclusion

- The highest authority in protected areas in Turkey is the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. So, it is the authorized ministry in the management of protected areas. Even if the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, which has the authority in National Parks, is in cooperation in recent years with non-governmental organizations in some issues about protected mountainous areas, it has no tendency to share the authority or responsibility with any institution or organization in terms of area management. Consequently, the role of non-governmental organizations in protected mountainous areas is limited to encouraging scientific researches in protection of areas and sustainable tourism and to carry out activities for increasing the awareness of local people.

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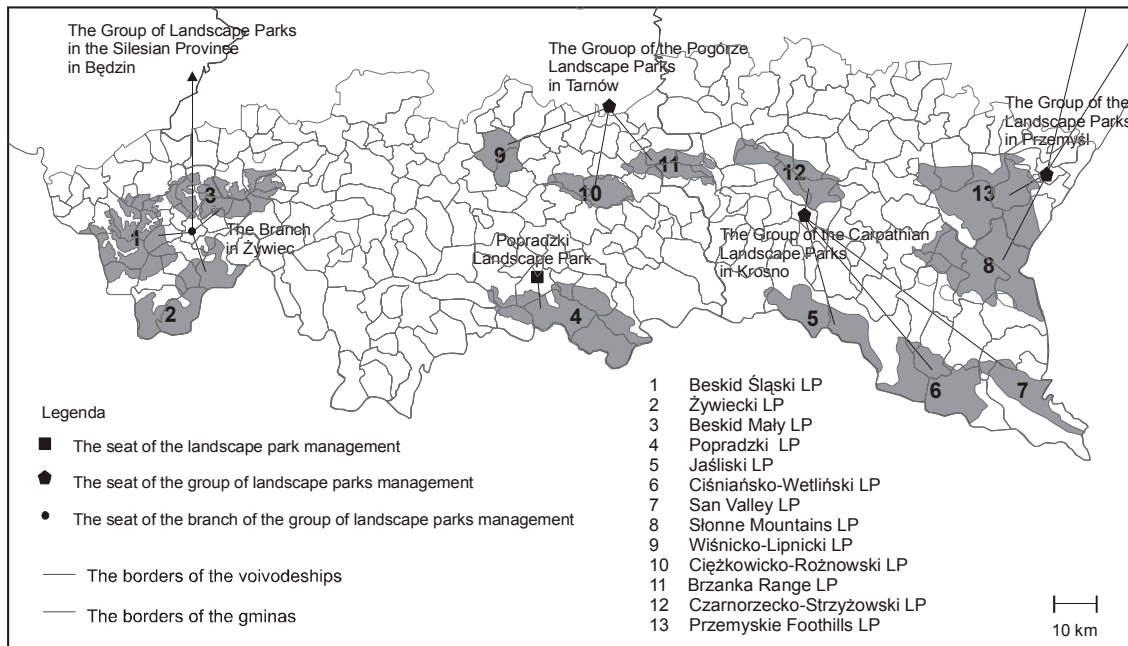
Cooperation of the Landscape Parks Management in the Polish Carpathians with Local Governments and Non-governmental Organizations

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In the Polish part of the Carpathians 13 landscape parks have been created until today. These are relatively young protected areas because most of them were established in the 1990s.

There is no uniform landscape park management system in Poland and three ways of management are put into practice. Only a small part of landscape parks have a separate management (in the Carpathians only the Popradzki Landscape Park) and most of the parks are federated in the groups of parks. These groups may have a regional character (they cover all the parks within the given province, e.g. the Group of Landscape Parks in the Silesian Province) or they can encompass neighbouring parks, irrespective of the administrative division (e.g. the Group of the Carpathian LPs, the Group of Pogórze LPs and the Group of LPs in Przemyśl).

Figure 1. Management system implemented in the Carpathian landscape Parks



Source: Zawilińska B., 2007, *Działania władz lokalnych w rozwoju turystyki w karpaccich parkach krajobrazowych*, Zeszyty Naukowe UJ, Prace Geograficzne, z. 117.

The scope of cooperation of the landscape parks management with other institutions and organizations

In 2005, I interviewed all boards of directors in the landscape parks of the Carpathians about the activities connected with tourism and cooperation started in this field with other institutions and organizations. All directors declared that they regularly cooperate with counties and communities (gminas). The majority of boards of directors started regular cooperation also with forest inspectorates, economic entities that work in a given area and with other organizations (including non-governmental organizations).

Unfortunately, detailed research showed that cooperation between boards of directors and particular parties is not permanent and usually limited to fulfilment of particular tasks. These tasks usually include:

- publishing directories, brochures and guides about didactic routes,
- elaboration of the didactic routes,
- marking tourist routes (e.g. paths for pedestrians, bike lanes, horsing trails),
- building infrastructure next to the touristic routes (such as: car parks, sheds, guard rails, look-out towers and galleries),
- setting of information boards,
- organization of exhibitions and photographic competitions as well as knowledge contests,
- organization of tourist and educational events,
- agreeing upon decisions that refer to the tourist investments.

The boards of directors of the landscape parks cooperate not only with the local authorities but also with various organizations including non-governmental organizations. The Polish Tourist Country-Lovers' Society (PTTK) is the main tourist organization to cooperate with. The employees of the landscape parks give lectures in the courses for guides and provide trainings for guides. They also participate in preparation of rallies (e.g. "The Ecologist's Rally" in the Group of Landscape Parks in Przemyśl) and in the other PTTK tourist events. The cooperation also covers marking the tourist routes and publishing for the needs of tourists.

Other dominant non-governmental organizations the boards of directors cooperated with are ecological organizations (e.g. The League of Environmental Protection, The Association in Favour of All Beings, Greenworks), associations and committees that work for local development (e.g. The Association of the Żywiec Region Enthusiasts, the Association of Dubiecko Region Enthusiasts, the Association for the Heritage of the Carpathians) and unions between communes (e.g. Union of the Tourist Municipalities in the Dynowskie Foothills).

The cooperation with economic entities operating in the given area is also important for the landscape parks because they finance some of the works in the parks such as: management of the didactic routes, publishing information materials and organization of tourist and educational events. Unfortunately, such cooperation in the Carpathian landscape parks is rather sparse.

The attitude of the local governments to the landscape parks

The success in the cooperation between management of landscape parks and local governments depends greatly on the attitude of both parties. The attitude of the gmina authorities to landscape parks was evaluated as very positive in 46% of the communities and positive in 40% of the communities. The authorities of 9% of the communities are indifferent to the existence of the landscape parks. The negative attitude was not registered in any of the investigated communities and only 5% of the respondents declared a rather negative feeling about the existence of the landscape parks.

Unfortunately, the positive approach is often not reflected in the actions that are taken jointly. It is also strange that 86% of the communities declared positive and very positive attitude to parks and only 63% of them specified benefits from their existence. There are 20% of the respondents who think that the landscape parks do not bring any benefits to the community. On this basis, it may be concluded that the attitude of the governments to the existence of the landscape parks is not as positive as it was declared in the poll.

The responses given by the directors of the parks also indicate that this assessment was overestimated. The opinions were uniform only in the case of the three landscape parks: Ciężkowicko-Rożnowski Park, Brzanka Strip Park and Czarnorzecko-Strzyżawski Park. The greatest discrepancy occurred in the Popradzki LP, where the majority of communities have announced a very positive attitude to the Park and the director of the Park believes this attitude is actually negative (table 1).

Table 1. The attitude of the local governments to the landscape parks

Landscape park	Attitude of the local governments		Attitude of the inhabitants
	In the governments opinion	In the directors opinion	In the directors opinion
Beskid Śląski LP	4	3	4
Żywiecki LP	4	3	4
Beskid Mały (Śląskie Voivodeship)	4	3	4
Beskid Mały (Małopolskie Voivodeship)	5	-	-
Popradzki LP	5	2	4
Jaśliski LP	5	4	4
Ciśniańsko-Wetliński LP	5	4	4
San Valley LP	4	3	4
Słonne Mountains LP	5	3	4
Wiśnicko-Lipnicki LP	5	4	4
Ciężkowicko-Rożnowski LP	5	5	4
Brzanka Range LP	4	4	3
Czarnorzecko-Strzyżowski LP	4	4	4
Przemyskie Foothills LP	4	3	4

5 – very positive

4 – positive

3 – indifferent

2 – rather negative

1 – negative

Source: Prepared on the basis of own studies run in 2005.

Observance of the principles of the sustainable tourism development

The attitude of the community authorities to the principles of sustainable development and observance of these principles in the communities are very important for the cooperation of the landscape parks and governments.

I asked both the representatives of the community authorities and directors of the parks for the assessment of the actions taken in communities. The answers given in all the communities were similar regardless of the localization. However, they differed greatly from the evaluation made by the parks' directors. Employees of the gmina offices evaluate their work much better than directors of the parks. According to them the above mentioned principles are important in the undertaken actions.

Table 2. Evaluation of activities run in communities from the point of view of the selected principles of sustainable tourism development

Principles of the sustainable tourism development	Evaluation made by the gmina offices					Evaluation made by the parks' directors				
	GLP Silesian Province	Popradzki LP	GCLP in Krosno	GPLP in Tarnów	GLP in Przemyśl	GLP Silesian Province	Popradzki LP	GCLP in Krosno	GPLP in Tarnów	GLP in Przemyśl
Tourism cannot cause damages to the natural environment.	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	4	4	4
Tourism should facilitate promoting and protection of the municipality's cultural values.	5	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	5
Tourism cannot be a nuisance to the local communities.	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	3	4	3

Municipality citizens should be engaged in tourism planning and development.	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	2	3	4
Inhabitants of the municipality should provide services to the tourist industry.	4	3	4	4	3	2	4	3	4	4
Initiatives connected with the development of tourism in the municipality should be consulted with all interested parties.	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	2	3	4
Development of tourism in the municipality should be accompanied by educating citizens and tourists.	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	4	2	3
Development of tourism requires constant monitoring.	4	4	4	4	4	1	2	2	2	2

5	It is essential for the development of tourism in the municipality
4	It is important
3	It is hard to say
2	It is not important
1	It is not taken into account

Source: Prepared on the basis of own studies run in 2005.

Obstacles in starting cooperation

Directors of all the landscape parks pointed out the necessity to undertake cooperation both with the local governments and other organizations and noticed the importance of such cooperation for the management. According to the directors, lack of the cooperation with some communities results from the fact that the authorities in a number of communities are not interested in tourism development. The management of the parks may have staff shortages or insufficient financial resources.

The first of the above mentioned obstacles was not confirmed by investigations made in the community offices because only 9% of the communities admitted to the small interest in tourism and 85% have undertaken or still undertake actions in tourism.

The other obstacles, mentioned by the parks' directors such as a staff and money shortage indeed restrict the activity of parks to a large extent. Crews in the headquarters of the landscape parks usually consist of a few people, while 5 up to 8 of these people are substantial workers. One can also notice a shortage in positions connected with tourism, protection of the environmental heritage and informative activity. Thus, the employees of parks have many duties from various posts to link.

The financial problems of the parks are caused by the fact that parks are governmental units and they do not have legal status. Therefore, they cannot make extra money from e.g. the sale of publications and they cannot charge fees for entrance to the park. I have to mention that funds from the budget for financing landscape parks are three times lower than money spent on the national parks despite the fact that there are five times more landscape parks than national parks.

Paradoxically, contrary to the opinion of directors, small funds and a shortage on staff may facilitate the cooperation of the landscape parks with local governments and non-governmental organizations. Parks do not have sufficient resources and are made to carry out many projects in cooperation with other subjects.

The problem of a staff shortage is also encountered in communities. Only 63% of offices have a specialized unit for tourism development. This unit is represented only by 1 person in 61% of the cases. This person usually connects duties in tourism sector with other duties. Only 28% of people who are employed in the community offices and who are responsible for tourism have a diploma in tourism.

The administrative disintegration of the landscape parks is the important limitation in starting cooperation. The borders of the landscape parks were established on the basis of the environmental criteria, so they relate to the administrative division. The territories of each of the landscape parks are situated in the area of several communities and often cover a small fragment of the surface.

The cooperation is also impeded by the existing system of the landscape parks management that federates parks in the groups. The common management is certainly advantageous for the organizational and financial reasons but it results in the fact that the seat of the management is situated further from the managed area and the number of administrative units connected with the areas which are managed by the management is multiplied.

Planning and coordination of the tasks in tourism

The joint fulfilment of the particular tasks is certainly important but it is crucial to take actions on a larger scale in order to guarantee the sustainable development of the landscape parks and tourism. The development of tourism in the Carpathian landscape parks is not planned globally and there is no coordination between the adjacent communities, management of the landscape parks and other interested subjects. The project documents in the seat of the management entities and in the community offices are missing. Only 3 out of 13 existing landscape parks have valid protection schemes. The local development plans were elaborated only for 43% of communities which have administrative links with the landscape parks and the special schemes of tourism development were elaborated only for 6% of communities.

The sustainable development of tourism in the landscape parks requires, first of all, creating a platform of cooperation between subjects, working out the coherent development conception and pursuing a common planned policy for all areas within the landscape parks. The lack of this cooperation platform is a great problem of Polish landscape parks. The park council may play a role of a forum for information exchange, presenting various points of view and discussion in the landscape parks that have a separate management. This council consists of the representatives of the local governments and other interested organizations that operate in the given area. Unfortunately, the existence of the group of parks does not offer such opportunity because they are too wide as a group.

In this case, the most sensible solution is the creation of unions between communities that encompass communities situated within the given landscape park. Unfortunately, the research have shown that such relations in the Carpathians are not made. There were 82% of respondents who declared their membership in the municipal unions, but only 52% of them, in the framework of their activity, take initiatives that are connected with tourism. Moreover, the territorial range of these unions, in the framework of which such actions were taken, does not agree with the area covered by parks.

Conclusions

The cooperation of the management of the landscape parks in the Polish Carpathians with the local governments and non-governmental organizations is present but it is based on irregular contacts and fulfilment of single tasks connected with tourism. The permanent, complex cooperation that would cover the whole area of the parks is missing. Starting such cooperation and reaching a compromise in the determination of the desired directions of tourism development is difficult, due to the multi-functional character of the parks and a significant number of subjects that manage their areas, which is a source of diversity of often contradictory interests.

It is certainly necessary to widen the cooperation but in the conditions of the institutionalized agreement platform, shortage of park protection schemes and tourism development schemes, the success in cooperation between the authorities in Polish landscape parks, local governments and other organizations depends mainly on the relation between parties, their willingness to start cooperation and ability to discuss and look for compromise.

Problems of Tourism and Sports in Czech Protected Areas

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Four national parks and 25 protected landscape areas are in the Czech Republic nowadays. State administrations are responsible for their management. Administrations of national parks are controlled directly by the Ministry of environment, 24 protected landscape area administrations are parts of the Agency for nature conservation and landscape protection of the Czech Republic (AOPK CR). Administration of Šumava NP and PLA is one organisation. Regional authorities and military area bureaus are another state organisations responsible for protected areas. AOPK CR consists of its headquarters, PLA administrations and 13 regional offices.

Group of specialists called Board for tourism and sports was established in AOPK CR in 2005 after a conflict between one PLA administration and cyclists to share experience and prevent further conflicts. The main tasks are 1) monitoring of the situation in PLAs, 2) proposals of unified proceeding at PLA administrations and 3) recommendations for the Ministry of environment. The board has about 10-15 members. The work is derived according single activities, for which analyses and methodologies are being created.

The main disadvantage of cycling is the individual character. The most urgent problems are recently snow parks used in summer for down-hill biking and construction of bike trails with asphalted surface in mountaine regions. Cooperation is being established with newly founded association of mountain biking, especially in creating nature-friendly bike trails.

Cooperation with Czech climbing union has a long tradition and problems in that field occur mostly with unorganised climbers only. Organised climbers must inform state administrations about birds nesting on rocks (especially Eagle Owl and Falcon), their profit is in consequent closing only the affecting track and not the whole region. Climbing rules, which compliance is checked by the Union, are created in cooperation as well. Icefall climbing is a speciality of montaine areas and is allowed only at few places and under certain circumstances which prevent a damage to nature.

Although **orienteering** (orientation running) is controlled by the Czech orienteering union traditionally, several problems occur each year with organisers of international competitions in protected areas. Such meetings of hundreds or thousands of runners are usually allowed only in autumn, after the end of birds nesting. Terrains outside the protected areas and also mountains are usually not interesting for that activity.

Great differences are between impacts of downhill and cross-country **skiing** to nature. Those sports have a long tradition, thus their negatives and solutions are well known. Both means of skiing take place in almost each mountaineous area in the Czech republic.

On contrary, individual motor vehicle **off-road driving** is a new trend. Motorbikes and four-wheelers are mostly used in lowland forests, snow scooters are polluting mountains with exhaust and noise emissions. The only useful measure is close cooperation with Police, but the well-known property of that problem is the fact, that some of the raiders are policemen themselves or their sons.

Hiking (walking) is the oldest way of tourism and is usually taken as a base for comparing impacts on nature. Eventhough hiking has certain negative impact and thus must be restricted in the most threatened natural places, it is being considered the best way of tourism which allows learning nature.

A special trendy way of hiking is **geocaching**, which can sometimes be performed also by cycling, climbing or other activity. Geocaching is hiding and seeking „a treasure“ (the cache), and needs to search the internet for description and coordinates of a trip destination and finding it in the field using a GPS receiver. There are several types of caches including also meetings of cachers. Caches differ in size, but must always have a log-book in paper and electronic form. Except micro-caches, cache containers are used for exchange of items (souvenirs, toys from Kinder-Surprise eggs, etc). Food and dangerous things belong to prohibited items. Trackable items (GeoCoins and TravelBugs) are property of their owner and have a special task for their journey from cache to cache and everyone can observe the history of its journey on the internet. Many caches are hidden in cities or their surroundings, but a lot of them could be found in natural places. Nowadays about 0.5 million caches is hidden all around the world, 5600 of them in the Czech Republic, 400 in Poland. The first ones were created in May,

2000 (U. S. A.), most of the findings are done on weekends. Negative impacts on nature depend on the way of transport (walking, cycling etc.), but are limited only to trampling of vegetation and slight erosion. Geocaching have a huge positive potential for nature conservation as it is a „soft“ activity, it functions as virtual educational boards, information panels or nature trails, and competitors are usually young people learning about the place in a game. Geocaching can be effectively used by state organisations as well as NGOs for spreading information about nature conservation by creating caches, organising events or creating trackable items with special tasks.

Creating a National Park in Tarcu Mountains

Radu Octavian Topai; Assotiation Altitudine, Timisoara, Romania

Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to participate in this seminar, and present a new proposed national park in Romania, the challenges it presents for both nature conservation and its potential for tourism.

Let me start by introducing our organization: we are a relatively young NGO, established two and a half years ago, and our main activity is immature conservation. Next to a few successes rehabilitating existing nature areas in the Western part of Romania, our main focus has been the creation of a large natural park in the high mountains of southwestern Romania, the Tarcu-Muntele Mic massif. The effort started two years ago, documenting the landscape, fauna and flora intended for protection, and this summer, the project was approved by Romania's National Academy of Sciences.

I will continue by giving a brief background on national parks in Romania, present the special features that the Tarcu area has to offer, talk about the challenges still involved in finalizing the park, and conclude with a few questions and issues that will hopefully generate discussion and feedback.

The first national reserve in Romania was created a century ago, and the first national park dates from before World War II. Still, overall protected areas have increased notably only since 1990, and covered at the start of 2007 only 7% of the country surface. This has increased with the addition of several sites to the Natura 2000 network (including the Tarcu mountains), but only barely reaches the EU target of 15%. The best known is surely the Danube Delta, which is also currently declared "Landscape of the Year" 2007-2009 by International Friends of Nature, co-organizers of this symposium. Most national parks are managed by the Romanian National Forest Administration, an autonomous entity, which also controls the commercial exploitation of the forest fund. This conflict of interest is an important factor in the deforestation problem that plagues Romania's national parks. The increasing uncontrolled and illegal exploitation was one of the reasons that prompted us to act for the creation of the Tarcu-Muntele Mic national park.

The massif is in the west of Romania's Southern Carpathians, and reaches close to 2300m in altitude. The proposed park comprises an area of 55 thousand hectares, which would make it the second largest in Romania. It is special in being one of the largest nature areas in Romania still unaffected by mass tourism, with no road traversing it and no permanent settlements inside (except the M. Mic resort). The proposed park covers the entire area of alpine pasture and much of the surrounding often untouched forests. It joins towards south and east with two other national parks, which would create a continuous protected area of more than 150 thousand hectares, along a ridge more than 100km in length.

The relief of the alpine area is varied, ranging from mellow grass-grown ridges to steep glacial cirques, or large boulder fields. The northeast of the massif contains a few glacier lakes that are among the cleanest and most undisturbed in the country. Most of all, there are vast stretches of mountain territory with nothing else around except the other mountains nearby: no chalets or hotels, no sign or sound of the villages in the valley below, just pure and undisturbed wilderness.

Romania has some of the best-preserved wildlife in Europe, and most of the species can be found here: there are chamois, the symbol of alpine fauna, packs of wolves hunting in winter, foxes, and of course, brown bears.

The plants are also varied, with a few species endemic to the park; springtime snowdrops and crocuses, several pastures with wild jonquils (daffodils), and in late June, entire stretches of mountain are purple with wild Rhododendron. There are patches of untouched virgin forests, where trees fall, decay and are replaced naturally. Notably, the forests in the Tarcu Mountains are very diverse, with deciduous forests often reaching up to the altitude of alpine pastures, without an intervening layer of conifers.

Traditional human presence has coexisted and benefited from this natural environment well. There are dozens of shepherd huts scattered throughout the range. Their number is decreasing, but traditional shepherding is still surviving, as are other uses of the land, for example the gathering of berries in late

summer. Felling of trees for the use of local communities has historically stayed within limits and has allowed forests to regenerate.

On the other hand, deforestation for commercial use (often unauthorized or illegal) is one of the main threats endangering the area currently. Despite being obvious, with entire hillsides razed bare without being replanted, the problem is overlooked by forest administration and local authorities, which have a direct interest in the profits arising from forest exploitation.

The resulting erosion has been amplified by the rapid growth of motorized off road access. A part stems from locals starting to use tractors to access their shepherd huts. Much larger damage has been done by 4-by-4 ATV and motorbikes used for leisure, many within organized rallies attracting foreign tourists from countries where such access has been banned. Vehicles racing across the mountain pasture have cut series of parallel tracks, often-veritable new dirt roads. Rain and ice further deepen and erode the tracks, stopping any potential regeneration.

Motorized access has also made it easier for hunters to track down wildlife in remote mountain corners. While in theory, hunting is controlled by quotas, these are often inflated, since chamois, stag and bear trophies bring profitable legal income. Worse, local and forest authorities turn a blind eye towards hunting over quota or without permit. Houses of some well-to-do local leaders, taped wall-to-wall with trophies are witness to the uncontrolled damage brought to wildlife.

Perhaps most dangerous of all is uncontrolled commercial and real estate development. Throughout Romania, a building boom by newly-rich has led to scores of buildings -- residences, leisure and summer homes -- rising from the ground without planning, and often without legal authorization. Resorts in neighboring areas seem more like sprawling urban ghettos; buildings squeezed together, without streets or a local plan, much less aesthetic or architectural identity. The Muntele Mic ski area, the only developed site in the proposed park boundaries, initially with only one hotel and a few pensions has become a disorganized building site with dirt roads crisscrossing the entire mountain area. Commercial pressure for use of the area is high, mostly with no regard for long-term impact, which makes it critical to protect the area by giving it national park status and sustainable management plans.

The momentum for creating a national park is strengthened by the status of Natura 2000 protected area which has been gained this year, and which already provides the framework -- and legal obligations -- for protection plan. Moreover, in the new context of the European Union, Romania has an insufficient percentage of protected areas, and this initiative is well placed to augment it. Most importantly, we believe there are significant opportunities for ecological, low-impact and wilderness tourism in these mountains. Their unspoiled character is precious asset that has irreversibly disappeared from most other areas in Romania and abroad. Putting the Tarcu mountains on the map as a national park has the potential to make it an attractive destination for tourists both locally and abroad, if coupled with plans like remarking of tourist trails, building of several refuges, rehabilitation of shepherd huts and rural homes (in addition to pensions) for rural tourism, marketing of indigenous food products. The traditional hospitality of the inhabitants is a distinct plus which has been marketed recently with success to off-road motorized tourists, and has led to the development of good network of rural pensions. The challenge is to stimulate and help local communities to use this capital attracting investments and tourists with a sustainable, environmental approach.

A recent good practice example shows this can be well done by an NGO: one of the youngest Romanian national parks, Buila-Vanturaria has come into being through the efforts of the local NGO, who now manages the park jointly with the forestry administration. Significant success stories have included the involvement of many locals in park volunteering, protection and administration, as well as attracting children through the Junior Ranger program and even having them help educate adults about the environment! However, the Tarcu area is more than 10 times as large, which requires a significant stable source of income for its management, and even more so for more independence from the forest administration.

After completing the documentation effort, a major successful step in creation of the park has been obtaining the approval of the Romanian Academy of Sciences. The main outstanding step remains the consultation of local authorities for their approval, and the subsequent OK by the environmental authorities. After the park is signed into law, management plans have to be submitted for public tender.

In this process, several challenges remain to be overcome. Some have as starting point the limited operational support for the implementation of environmental protection: although laws exist, the means

to enforce them is often not spelled out. This is aggravated by a widespread lack of interest from relevant authorities in enforcing environmental provisions. In turn, this has to do with the inherent contradiction of having exploitation and protection in the hands of the same forestry body, in fact an autonomous commercial entity but perceived as representing state authority and having close links to it. NGOs as an alternative have little precedent in being involved in park administration, which is a hurdle to overcome. The highest danger we perceive are commercial interests completely opposed to the park goals; as seen both here and abroad, these can be the most difficult to counter.

An independent action that we came across while promoting the creation of the park was the plan of a local entrepreneur to develop the PoianaMarului resort north of the park boundaries into a large-scale skiing area, extending over much of the northern and north-eastern area of the park. We raised our concerns, which after discussions and reassessment resulted in limiting the plan to a ski lift with tourist facilities at the upper end, but without any accommodation or access road development within the park itself. Moreover, the proposed resort operation would provide 10% of profits for sustaining the park. Faced with the challenge of finding a realistic balance between preservation and sustainable development, this could be an acceptable tradeoff. While the resort will be instrumental in attracting tourism, this is a loss of undeveloped protected area and raises the issue of controlling mass access into the park. On the other hand, it provides a stable source of funding for administering the park and in turn exerting control over the required means of protection, for this development and the rest of the park.

We'd like to make the most of the opportunity of joining in this seminar and apply some of the joint expertise of present participants for the goals we've presented. As such, we'd be keen to discuss, in the remaining question time or offline, lessons of good practice and NGO involvement in park management; opportunities for promoting the park and accessing funding resources, and, most importantly perhaps, collaborate with people present here for mutually rewarding joint experiences and partnerships.

Bottom-up Approach in Local Tourism Management Based on Partnerships

Study Case of the Cairngorms National Park in Scotland.

Katarzyna Śliwa; Jagiellonian University, Institute of European Studies, Kraków, Poland

Content

Partnerships in planning for tourism development can bring together stakeholders representing interests from different sectors. This paper examines tourism development partnership in Cairngorms National Park in Scotland, one of the most important European protected areas. Furthermore, it explores the processes and effects of joint working, and how participation was extended to different parties.

The partnership focused on coordination between the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) and its partners, including public, private and voluntary groups. The article particularly takes into account communities' contribution to implementation of Sustainable Tourism Strategy and The National Park Plan.

Introduction

Local tourism development is considered always as a complex process involving many interested parties. Therefore tourism administration based on cooperation between different authorities, NGOs and local communities is presently more often based on public consultation on local development.

Bottom-up approach in tourism involves communes in decision-making process, which influence on employment and standard of living of inhabitants as well as on management of the environment. Moreover, the natural resources function not only as tourist attraction and the core of tourist product, but also as an integral element of daily life of local communities. This approach has to be considered especially when establishing local cooperation on tourism management within mountain natural protected areas. This kind of partnership is recommended mainly for two reasons: long term reimbursement of tourism investments and common aim of local groups of interest, which is development of sustainable tourism.

Scottish Government has founded so far two national parks. Their role in promoting the sustainable social and economic development of their local communities, while safeguarding the natural and cultural heritage of the area, is explicitly recognized in legislation. Consequently tourism has become the source of financing nature protection of the area. Obviously uncontrolled development of tourism may have negative consequences for the local economy. Therefore raised awareness of these facts among interested parties, stakeholders and local communities facilitate participation in managing protected areas according to the concept of sustainable development.

As a result, the protected areas have a bigger chance for contribution to life of local people and nature protection, worked out on the base of understanding mutual dependences of both. Undoubtedly, the Cairngorms National Park is one of these areas where local communities have voted for foundation of the protected area as a social choice.

However if tourism is the most important sector of the local economy within the natural protected area, how the partnership contributes to sustainable tourism development? And how the partnership enables communities to develop sustainable tourism? This article aims to answer the questions above by analysing system of management of the Cairngorms National Park.

1 Concept of a partnership in tourism management

The management in tourism is understood as management of the process of tourism development and it is separated in theory of management from the concept of tourist company management. Nevertheless a partnership of many local stakeholders may combine microeconomic and macroeconomic approach, when influencing on decision-making process of individuals, allocating limited resources as well as emphasizing the interactions in the local economy as a whole.

In Anglo-Saxon literature partnership's legal entity was regarded as a type of business body in which partners share with each other the profits or losses of the business undertaken in which all have invested. Partnership means also the cooperation between subjects within which they agree to act together in order to achieve common goal and to realize common purpose of economic development (R.J. Bennett and G. Krebs, 1994).

The creation of an effective tourist product and the development of tourism in region depend on structured and properly functioning system of tourist organizations at local and regional level (Rapacz 1999). In Scotland regional development bodies appear to be essentially networked organizations, achieving their objectives by working in partnership with other public and private actors. According to EU policy the decline of central government in many countries favoured the growth of bottom-up initiatives into a web of regional and local development organizations, and the 1988 reforms of the Structural Funds, made partnership a general requirement in European regional programs.

Therefore new forms of cooperative governance have to include tools, which can be targeted to three parties: community, tourism economy and environment. Only this approach can fulfil the requirements of sustainable tourism development in the area.

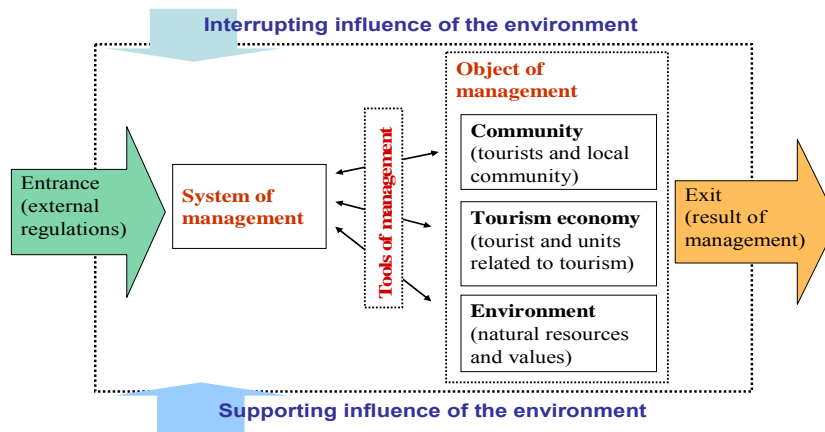


Figure 1. General model of Tourist System Management

Source: According to (Poskrobko, Kiryluk 2005)

As far as opportunities for tourism development are concerned they depend on both: the tourist resources of a municipality and on the extent by the interest of the local authorities and residents of particular municipalities in its development. Often individual municipalities do not have sufficient finances to engage with task related to tourism product and infrastructure development, promotion, modification of bylaws to needs of tourism development (Pawlusiński, Mika 2003). Therefore there has been growing interest in the development of partnerships to achieve strategic objectives in local tourism development and nature conservation.

2 Characteristics of the Cairngorms National Park and the role of local communities

The Cairngorms National Park was formally designated in 2003 as Scotland's second National Park (after the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park). The area of the Cairngorm National Park comprises a very important part of Scottish natural heritage establishing the largest range of Arctic Alpine landscape in the British Isles. It also holds 25% of Scotland's native woodlands and sustains over one third of the United Kingdom's 1,250 priority and endangered species. According to IUCN (The World Conservation Union), the park matches the V category of protected landscape, which is managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems, conserving landscape, biodiversity and cultural values.

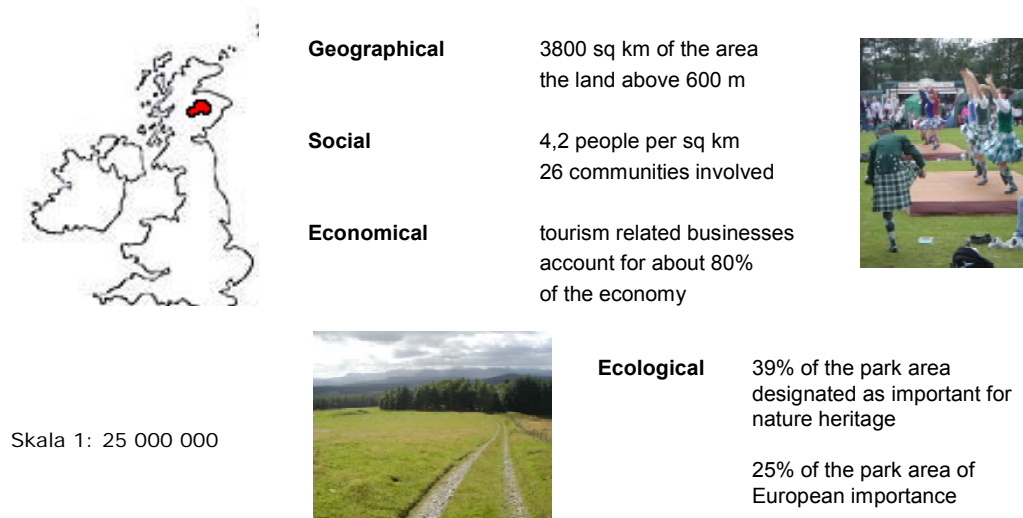


Figure 2. The location and basic information about the Cairngorms National Park in Scotland

Source: Self elaboration

The area of the national park involves the population of 16.000 people. And this kind of sparsely populated region, with mountain characteristics, needs the special care and carefully planned development. In addition, the local economy is dominated by tourism; walking, climbing, skiing and stalking. Each year there are 1,5 million of tourists visiting the park. The other branches include fishing, forestry, agriculture and estate management. These activities indicate the style of life that favours sustainable development.

Recognition has grown over the last two decades that local people affected by the partnership initiatives should be involved in their planning and management to increase the fairness of decisions and promote local ownership and cooperation. Therefore Scottish national parks have a wider set of aims than parks elsewhere recognized in legislation (The National Parks Act 2000).

Table 1. The four key aims for the National Park (Scotland)

- to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area,
- to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area,
- to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and
- to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

Source: www.cairngorms.co.uk

The inclusion of the fourth aim dealing with sustainable economic and social development has particular potential for addressing the development of sustainable rural livelihoods in the mountains.

Several researches have been carried on the area of the CNP in the cooperation with faculties on Scottish universities interested in contributing to the sustainability of the area. As far as local communities are concerned for example, there was a survey conducted on biodiversity and understanding of biodiversity by individuals. The participants express complex mental concepts that

included notions such as balance, food chains, dominance and the irreversible nature of biodiversity loss, as well as the role of humans in nature, although independent from scientific terminology (Fischera, Young 2007).

Recent observations indicate also a shift to a higher-value knowledge-based economy; for example there is a predicted expansion of the learning, science, technology, renewable energy and tourism sectors; and a shift in employment to these from the land management sectors within the area.

The processes of establishing the cooperation within the partnership

In the 1990s, local agencies have generally stressed the importance of 'endogenous' development, defined as an integrated 'bottom-up' approach that involves local actors and communities (Burnett, 1998; Day, 1998; Ray, 1999; Storey, 1999). The Cairngorms Partnership was incorporated as a private company in 1995. And the Partnership Board operated from 1995 to 2003. It was tasked with developing a coherent management strategy for the Cairngorms area.

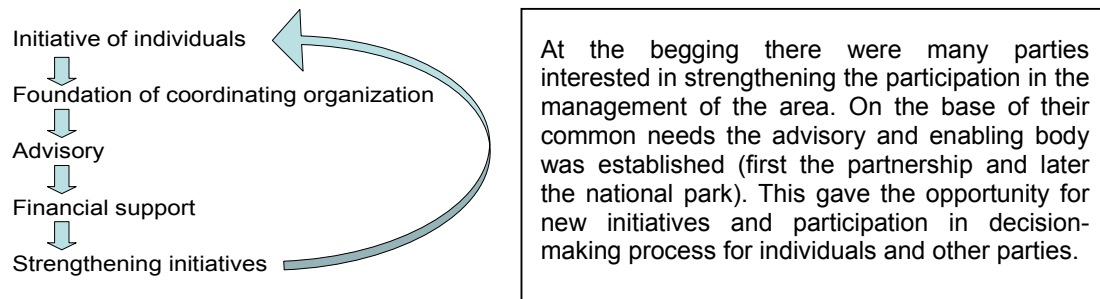


Figure 3. Algorithm for the bottom-up approach in The Cairngorms National Park

Source: Self elaboration

Presently, for policy and administrative purposes the Authority is classified as an executive non-departmental public body. It includes all sectors as partners working for the broad strategic development, accessing funding, agenda setting and consensus construction. Finally, the objective of partnership functioning is first of all strategic development and advocacy and it is based on collaborative management.

The formal structure of the Partnership comprises an Advisory Panel. The Board comprises, for the most part, the Chairmen and equivalents of all the main spending agencies; the local authorities; and representatives of those who own and manage the land, including Royal Society of the Protection of Birds and the National Trust for Scotland. Currently The CNPA Board consists of 25 Members: 5 directly elected by the voters in the Park, 10 appointed by nomination of the 4 local authorities (Highland Council 5, Aberdeenshire 3, Moray 1, Angus 1) and 10 directly appointed by Scottish Ministers.

Tourism management within the National Park is not the responsibility of one single organisation. A number of public sector organisations in the Cairngorms are involved in supporting the tourism industry, either through funding, training or marketing activity. Nevertheless, the Park Authority has a key role to play in the implementation of strategy and in the co-organization of tourism. It currently has two members of staff working specifically on tourism issues although a number of other posts have functions that relate strongly to tourism, notably in visitor services.

Institutions involved in tourism management within the park are as follows:

- three Area Tourist Boards,
- local tourism associations (such as the Monarch Country Marketing Group),
- Visitor Services, Information and Tourism Forum (ViSIT) - a permanent forum through which it can communicate to a wide range of tourism stakeholders (around 40)
- VisitScotland Challenge Fund,
- The Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce,

- Local Enterprise Companies,
- local councils (especially infrastructure and transport).

The wider informal partnership is made up of all those who have an interest in the management of the Cairngorms area: people who own and manage the land; those who seek recreation in the area; those who live and work locally; and those with a statutory interest, such as the local authorities and a wide range of agencies. Local tourism associations exist at a sub-Park level. The Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce is operating across the whole Park area, based on an agreement with the other Chambers. Support for tourism enterprises and new development is primarily provided through the network of Local Enterprise Companies. The Scottish Enterprise Network (SEN) delivers programmes for the Cairngorms through Scottish Enterprise Grampian (SEG) and Scottish Enterprise Tayside (SET). SEG leads on wildlife, nature-based tourism and food marketing initiatives. In total there is diverse range of almost 100 organisations involved in managing the Park. It is also open for new members to be joined, which is important for the flexibility of tourism development.

The park authorities are also required to establish one or more advisory groups to involve key interests and organisations in the management of the area. People and communities should be involved effectively in the decisions that affect them and there should be many effective groups in a community and good links between them. The Community Councils group was designed to involve the 26 communities in the area in the work of the Partnership. Thus, more effective networking and information flow within the area is very important also for the future plans expressed in CNP Plan for 2007. Information will be widely accessible and contribute fully to the knowledge economy of the region and Scotland. A permanent forum, the Visitor Services Information and Tourism Forum (ViSiT) communicate a wide range of tourism stakeholders.

3. Documents on sustainable tourism implementation

In the first place, there was the Management Strategy prepared. That directed the actions of decision-makers and stakeholders towards sustainable development for the area. The Strategy was set against the background of a long history of tensions between interested parties and within a context set by the "voluntary approach". Therefore, the Strategy takes the pivotal issues of land management in the Cairngorms and integrates them with approved structure plan and adopted local plan policies.

The strategy indicated providing houses that the community needs and also minimising or even removing impacts on mountain ecosystems. It was planned to make energy efficient, low water use, use roof water, recycle grey water, get run-off away from hard surfaces and into ground water or streams.

The National Park Plan sets out also the long term vision (25 years) for the Park as well as Priorities for Action during the first five years of the Plan (2007 - 2012). The Plan has been produced through collaboration between the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) and its partners, including public, private and voluntary groups. There has also been considerable input from local residents and other interested parties.

CNPA and partner organisations are working together in seven delivery teams to make sure that the National Park Plan's Priorities for Action are implemented over the next five years. In addition, three advisory forums focusing on three key areas - understanding and enjoying the Park: communities living and working in the Park and conserving, enhancing and managing the Park - have been set up to give direction and advice on the Park's management and the implementation of the Plan. The main features that have been proposed for local communities include the use of local natural resources (for example, local timber, animal products and eco-tourism which should form an increasingly important part in the economy).

4. Tourism management and local communities

Tourism generates £169million across the Park, creating jobs for over 5000 people. People visit the Park each year for a wide range of business and leisure trips. Tourism has also a key role to play in supporting economic growth, encouraging enjoyment and understanding of this special area.

Sustainable Tourism Strategy for Cairngorms National Park (2005) emphasize de role of communities by strengthening two-way communication with them on tourist issues, encouragement of use of tourism related facilities by local residents, maximizing support for local services through visitor income, encouraging and assisting local communities to provide facilities and events for tourists,

leading to mutual benefit. Nevertheless, the park has to deal with many problems connected with investments (The Funicular and ski lift on the Cairngorm Mountain), land conflicts between farmers and hillwalkers, and other problems with variety of land uses represented and finally duplication of roles in tourism development because a great range of bodies.

The Cairngorms National Park "Community Investment Programme" offers grants to communities who are contributing to the Park's aims. Communities may profit from a several programs either from EU or regional level developed in the park such as: Cairngorms LEADER+, Local Biodiversity Action Plan Project, Land Based Business Training Project and Cairngorms Water Vole Conservation Project. All of them may influence the value and sustainability of tourist services offered by the local providers. The private sector has also an enhanced role in tourism planning and development at a local level. As part of this, local, not-for-profit groupings will be able to apply for funds under a new VisitScotland Challenge Fund.

Conclusion

Presently, there are more and more examples of natural protected areas, which are governed by some kind of umbrella organization. Integration of at least two management bodies such as local authorities and those of protected areas is observed in other European countries. Tourism sustainable development is much more effective when coordinated by board of interested parties. The Cairngorms National Park presents the form of cooperative government of the protected area to enable development of tourism, which contributes not only to visitors but also to the local communities and nature protection. The aim is to involve local communities in the planning and development of tourism in the Cairngorms and to ensure that it improves and does not diminish their quality of life.

Therefore public consultation has become the base tool for implementing new strategy and plans. Nevertheless, partnership functions as an enabling and facilitating body rather than a regulatory body. The formulation of business plan and community participation in the governance may be regarded as microeconomic approach to the management of the nature protected area. It is an important step for delegating responsibility of environmental care.

Conflicts between protection's function and tourism function are very often hard to solve with economic tools or legal standards. So shaping environmental awareness is crucial for the park as it is the landscape that wins people back into the hills. And this shows how important is this bottom-up approach to identify this notions related also to individuals' attitudes towards biodiversity management.

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The article was written by studying the partnership publications and research results published in Annals of Tourism Research, Landscape and Urban Planning and Journal of Rural Studies as well as on the base of interviews of senior site manger in Abernethy Forest Reserve, members of Tourism and Environment Forum in Inverness and the Economic Development Officer of the CNP in 2005.

Negotiation as a Tool for Preparation of "Sustainable Tourism Development" Project

Case study of the Babia Góra National Park/ Biosphere Reserve

Tomasz Lamorski; Babia Gora National Park, Zawoja, Poland

Introduction

Sustainable Tourism is "development that meets the needs of present tourists and hosts regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems" (World Tourism Organization).

On the other hand; sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This definition contains within two key concepts: the concept of "needs" and the idea of limitation.

However, the uniqueness of the protected areas and their connections at various levels with the surroundings show that tourism development in these areas should be examined taking into account sustainable development of the region instead of chosen tourist activities. This approach lets implement the principles of sustainable development with its three dimensions – ecological, social and economic.

Understanding biosphere reserves as testing sites; recommendations of the Seville Strategy were used for involving widely public participation in the design of this project, especially to reach following goals such as: utilizing biosphere reserves as a model of land management and of approaches to sustainable development, and using biosphere reserves for research, monitoring, education and training. Objectives that are recommended at the individual reserve level were applied.

Babia Gora Biosphere Reserve

The biosphere reserve comprises the Babia Góra National Park which creates the core area of BR and the buffer zone of BR. That area was designated as the Biosphere Reserve in 1976 when the main criterion used for selection was a conservation role and representative character of the world's ecosystems. Since the enlargement in 2001, the biosphere reserve has included the protective zone of the national park which creates the transition area of BR. The most valuable areas of the region have been under strict protection since 1933 when a nature reserve was established in the upper part of the massif. In 1955, a national park was created on the area of 1704 ha, which was extended to 3392 ha in 1997. Despite of long history of nature protection, the national park is perceived by some as an obstacle to future development. The legislative measurements and small area limit the development of infrastructure and some activities.

The aims of biosphere reserves can be achieved only by negotiation and co-operation between the national park administration and the local authorities based on shared objectives and jointed actions of stakeholders because of the complicated aspect of the land ownership and numerous bodies managing natural resources.

Social context of tourism development

The base for tourism development within protected areas and their surroundings is nature and culture, and through the centuries in the Central Europe humans have created both. The remains of virgin forests are like islands. Inhabitants of the Carpathians have met with a clear ecologic limit as climate and soil fertility. Economic and social development has started to change the roots of rural communities. Industrialization and mass tourism development are the main factors of the increase of the local population and settlements and also the change of the social structure. In 1989 systemic transformation began. Heavy industry collapsed, and huge state factories were closed. The unemployment rate about 18 % does not give the opportunity to find a job; therefore, the young

people with higher or professional education work abroad. The recovery of tourist movement and utilization of this geographical space for tourist purposes are the solution for the local population.

Current tourism development of the region is diversified. The Babia Góra National Park is located in the center. In the vicinity of the protected area there is a possibility of agrotourism, studying of the fauna and flora, hiking, bicycle riding, holiday visits, and recreation, horseback riding, camping and the studying of culture and folklore. Despite of similar environmental conditions, the north site is developed, but the south one is in an initial stage of development. The tourist movement has characteristic features. One of them is seasonality having its peak during summer months. The number of tourists in the winter constitutes a few percent only. During summer, large fluctuations are noticeable, and they are caused by long holiday's periods because of an occurrence of national holidays in May and August as well as atmospheric conditions. The conditions have influence over the number of tourists due to the lack of tourist infrastructure, sport and entertainment facilities in the vicinity of the park.

In the circumstances, the tourism development in the region needs investments in the infrastructure, which will be used by the visitors and the inhabitants. The income of self-governments generated by agriculture, forestry and local services is too low to improve the living standards.

Traditional utilization of natural resources by forestry and agriculture can not be intensified because of clear ecologic limits as climate and soil fertility.

Forest covers about 40% of the area. The national park includes primeval forests and forests which were affected by intensive forest husbandry in the past. In the vicinity, woods are a key public asset. These are available to both commercial and public users. The forest management in the state forest adjoining the park is oriented to the aims of a near-natural forest management.

In the region there is a high level of fragmentation of farmland. The structure of the plots is called the chessboard. The average area of plots of a farm is 0,1-0,2 ha while the average number of plots of one farm is 37,3. Only a few percent of households is typically agricultural, gaining income only from the production of a farm. More than 40% of households produce only to meet their own needs.

Two ethnic groups that are isolated by the Babia Góra massif inhabit the area. The ridge was the state border until 1918, so both groups have developed independently. They have different architecture, folklore and dialects. The population is young, and 40% of the inhabitants are below the age of 14. The living standard in the region is much lower than the national average. Unemployment is high due to the lack of industry in the region and the economic changes.

Stakeholder involvement

After a long period of misunderstanding and mistrust partnership between stakeholders of the BG BR does very well. Local authorities, organizations and educational institutions work together for popularizing nature conservation and solving current problems.

Common topics:

- strong promotion of uniqueness Babia Góra's nature and ethnic heritage,
- idea of sustainable development,
- promotion of agro- and eco- tourism,
- support ethnic heritage by seminars, workshops and publications,
- education.
- However, common problems exist:
- lack of integrated tourism management strategy
- low public environmental awareness
- unsustainable utilization of biodiversity

The German organization, Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE) was a proposer of the project on sustainable tourism development "Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through sound tourism development in biosphere reserves in Central and Eastern Europe". During the preparation phase, the Babia Góra National Park with a scientific assistance of UNESCO-MAB Poland started a multi-stakeholders process. All possible stakeholders at regional and local levels, who may be affected and/or will benefit from the future project, were invited to joint meetings on sustainable tourism

development in the region. Organized meetings were focused on consultation with key partners to analyze current situation and trends, and to identify the most critical issues relevant to connections between nature protection and utilization of the area by tourism as well as to determine what should be done. At the end of visioning process almost 80 representatives of different constituencies were invited to a workshop. 44 representatives of 31 stakeholders took active part in a discussion. The participants acted on behalf of self-governments, the tourist business sector, NGOs, state forests, protected areas from Poland and Slovakia, the ministry, Polish National UNESCO-MaB Committee, scientific institutes, cultural institutions, universities and high schools.

Participants had to address interconnected aspects of tourism as well as took into account basic goals of most stakeholders:

- Development of different forms of tourism
- Promotion of the region
- Establishing new tourism trails and rest areas
- Establishing various protection forms of natural and cultural attractions
- Protection and development of local crafts
- Development of tourist products
- Improvement of safety standards
- Increase of the attractiveness of the region for investments

All of them worked in 3 groups related to land *utilization, conservation, and education*. Firstly, threads for improving the links between tourism and conservation were named. Secondly, the ways of resolving of conflicts or minimizing negative impact of tourism development on biodiversity were defined. Then, certain actions that provide mutual benefit for tourism and conservation as well as the local population were proposed. Finally, obtained results were evaluated by external experts. Designed on the national level a "shopping list" formed the basis for the activities of the MSP and was used for the elaboration of the project proposal. On the international level, two international workshops have taken place, gathering experts from the countries to design the MSP. At first workshop, all proposed activities from participating biosphere reserves were compared to each other and after a selection process, compiled into one list. At the final workshop the MSP brief was adopted. After the preparation phase, the most involved stakeholders confirmed the participation, the support and contribution to the project for the timeframe of 2005-2008. Their financial support of this project applies to activities that are compatible with their institutional or organizational plans and work.

The effort during the preparation phase and the stakeholders' willingness for the common implementation of activities strongly show their commitment to the objectives of the project.

Mountain protection at sea level

Sustainable tourism in mountain areas

Joop Spijker and Nora Schuylenburg, members of the board of NAP, the Netherlands

Contents

1. NAP, Dutch Alpine Platform
2. Sustainable tourism
3. Learning from the past
4. How to attract Dutch tourists to Central and Eastern Europe (in a sustainable way)

1. NAP (Dutch Alpine Platform)

Goal and partners

Nap is a 'stichting' (foundation). The goal of NAP is to contribute to sustainable mountain tourism. The partners which cooperate in NAP are

- Dutch Ski Association "(NSKiV; ca. 120,000 members)
- Dutch Mountaineering Association (NKBV; ca. 60.000 members)
- Dutch mountain environment commission NMGA

Many people wonder why there is a **Dutch** platform for the mountains?

- In the Netherlands there are no mountains at all
- Legally mountain protection is not a Dutch responsibility

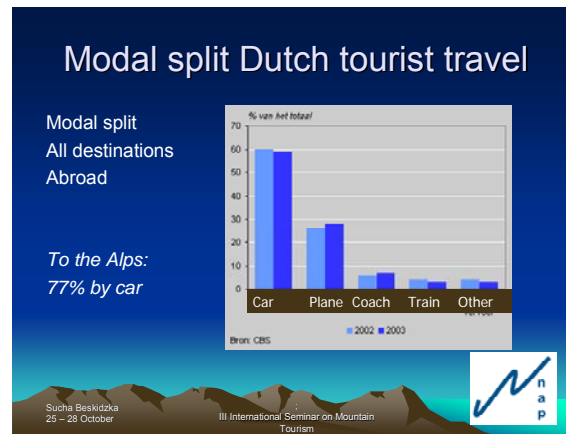
But

Many Dutchmen feel responsible!

- Yearly more then 2 millions Dutchmen visit the Alps and other mountain areas.
- Mountain protection is important for our well-being and our (future) holidays
- Good information about mountains and mountain protection is important for Dutch tourists and tour operators. It is also a Dutch responsibility to organize this information on sustainable tourism.
- Co-operation between country of origin and destination is needed. Sustainable tourism can only be successful if Dutch and foreign touristic companies cooperate over the borders. NAP tries to encourage Dutch tourists and Dutch touristic companies to sustainable tourism.

The next slides provide some data on Dutch tourism.





2. Sustainable tourism

Sustainable tourism from the Netherlands to the mountains has three important elements:

- Travel
- Stay
- Activities

The travel to the mountains is the most important element for sustainability, because of the large distance to the mountains from The Netherlands. Very important are choice of the mountain holiday destination, the means of transportation and the duration of the stay.

It's better to visit relatively nearby mountains and to spend one long vacation in the mountains, instead of more short holidays. The means of transportation are also very important. Travelling by train or coach has relatively low impact. Travelling by car has more negative impacts, but of course, these impacts can be reduced by car pooling. Even more negative impacts are involved by travelling by airplane.

The impacts of the stay can be reduced by choosing a simple camping, mountain hut or guest house. It's also possible to stay in a sustainable managed accommodation, and the first zero emission mountain huts have been established.

The selection of the destination is also important. There are destinations which outshine on sustainability. Some of these are officially member of the Alpine Pearls.

Various touristic activities have different impacts. Most forms of soft tourism, like walking, bicycling (on paved or forest roads), cross country skiing and tour skiing have relative low impacts. Of course dependant on the scale and local situation.

Alpine skiing, motorized activities (e.g. snow scootering), mountain biking on small paths, many forms of canyoning can have a lot of impact (erosion, noise, disturbance).

3. Learning from the past

In the Alps there are very good but also bad examples of touristic development (Examples of sustainable tourism and overexploitation). It's important to learn from these experiences. Don't make the same faults in touristic development, but choose for sustainable development; important for the society (public health; outdoor; livable environment). Don't kill the hen that lays golden eggs (the tourists go elsewhere; the local population remains the eggshells)

In the Alps there are different good and bad examples.

- Unattractive tourist resorts
- Traffic jams in the mountains
- Lack of nature management
- Air pollution

- Adaptation to climate change

Bad examples

Many unattractive tourist resorts have been built. The 'empty' villages, existing of apartments where only some weeks in winter and some weeks in summer people stay. In Les Ménuires (France) large unattractive apartment complexes which spoiled the landscape have been destroyed already.

On many places in the Alps there often large traffic jams, even high in the mountains. An example is the Grossglockner Alpenstrasse.



The air in the mountains can be very clean. Many patients of lung diseases travel to the mountains for the clean air. But in some valleys the air is very polluted, because of the traffic. An example is the valley of Chamonix (France), where lots of vans pass by the Mont Blanc road tunnel. The quality of the air in this valley can be as bad as in the Champs Elyssées, an important road in the centre of Paris, France.

It's very important for tourist resorts to adapt to climate change. Don't invest all your money in 'hard' winter tourism. The chances on winters without snow are rising, and already there are a lot of examples of tourist resorts which suffered big losses in winter sport investments.

Good examples

There are good examples of tourist resorts which have invested in sustainable tourism. Chamois in Italy is an example where in 1954 !! the maire has decided not to build a road to the village but a cable car. Now, the result is an attractive tourism resort, where Italian and Non-Italian tourists can enjoy a relaxed holiday.

Another famous example is Werfenweng in Austria. In Werfenweng tourists are encouraged to come by train. Tourist who come by car are invited to hand in their car keys during their stay. Result in Werfenweng is a rising number of guests and rising sustainability.

There are a lot of other good examples in the Alps. Many of these resorts work together in the Alpine Pearls.

Other good examples are zero emission huts. The Schiestlhaus in Austria is the first one, but there are several other environmental friendly mountain cabins.

How to attract Dutch tourists to Central and Eastern Europe (in a sustainable way)

For Dutch tourist to Central and Eastern Europe the following items are important.

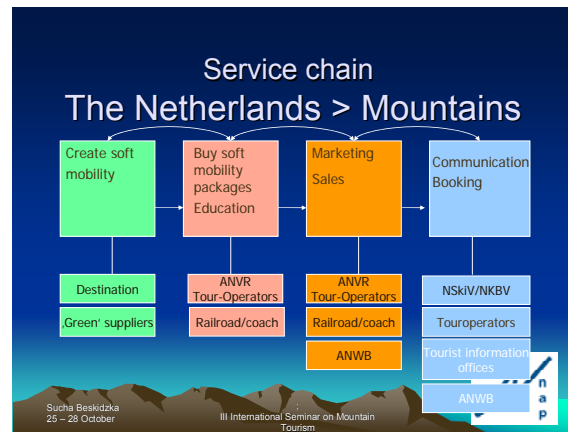
- The identity of the regions
- Lots of nature, unspoiled landscapes
- Interesting cultural heritage
- Loneliness, quietness

- Price level (typical Dutch)

So when you want to develop the tourism in your region, keep in mind, that it's very easy to spoil these important qualities. For attracting Dutch visitors the next items are important:

- Information on Website (in Dutch; in English or in German is also OK)
- Internet reservations
- Co-operation with Dutch tourist agencies
- Co-operation with transport enterprises
- Clear labels and certification

However, the service chain for tourists from The Netherlands to the mountains is rather complex:



NAP can help in connecting touristic offers in the mountains and touristic demands in The Netherlands.

Nap has initialized some projects to transform 'hard' tourism to sustainable tourism.

1. Project From 'front door' till 'hotel door'. In this project touristic packages were organized where transport of Dutch tourists was organized from house till hotel by public transport (train and bus), including luggage transport.
2. Travel workshops. Napo organized three travel workshops in Switzerland and Austria. In these workshops travel agents from The Netherlands cooperated with touristic suppliers from the Alps. This cooperation is very important to establish sustainable touristic packages for Dutch tourists.
3. The Low Lands Protocol. This is a cooperation between the Alpine associations from Belgium, Denmark, Luxemburg and the Netherlands. The associations cooperate to make their activities more sustainable.

Landscape of the Year, NGO and Local Partners Shaking Hands

How International Friends of Nature Work to Build Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism

Wilfried Meulenbergs; Nature Friends International, Vienna, Austria

To understand how and why International Friends of Nature are working to develop sustainable tourism in protected (mountain) areas, it may be interesting to understand where they come from. I will therefore give you a short review of the **history of INF**.

The Friends of Nature have a long history, going back for more than a hundred years. When founded in Vienna in 1895, in the womb of the labour movement, the Friends of Nature's aims were :

‘...neben die alpinen Vereine des Bürgertums zu treten und durch geringe Mitgliedsbeiträgedem Arbeiter die organisierte Teilnahme am Bergsport möglich zu machen ...’

‘.. Wir wollen vor allem die Arbeiter losreisen von den Stätten des Alkohols, vom Würfel- und Kartenspiel. Wir wollen sie aus der Enge der Wohnungen, aus dem Dunst der Fabriken und Wirtshäuser hinausleiten in unsere herrliche Natur, sie der Schönheit und Freude entgegenführen...’²

The founders of the so-called ‘Touristenverein der Naturfreunde’, wanted to give working-class people the opportunity to enjoy outdoor-life as way to escape from their unhealthy living and working conditions. The organisation's activities were not only aimed at getting people to beautiful natural settings, but also at awakening their love for nature and imparting knowledge about nature and culture to them. So, it is clear that from the beginning outdoor activities were core business of Friends of Nature, and these outdoor activities were not the aim as such, but tools for education. From the beginning, Friends of Nature wanted to do it in a specific way, different from the average, common, so called ‘bourgeois’ way, their way.

Nature - Houses’, as an alternative to the inaccessible (elitist, expensive) mountain-huts from the Alpine-Clubs. This building of their own huts was at the same time a social activity, promoting and putting into practise solidarity (all the work was done by volunteers), and a political statement. They were a very concrete expression of their slogan: Berg Frei! (Mountains Free!), that they used in opposition to the ‘Berg Heil!’ (‘Mountains Be Greeted!’) in the bourgeois clubs.

Outdoor activities (in the nature around their houses) were their main activities. But at the same time, Friends of Nature were politically active. Being convinced internationalists they were in the frontline of the anti-war movements when Europe was set on fire in the beginning of the 20th century, and even more when the fascists took over the lead in the 30s in Germany and later in Austria. They paid for their resistance against the nazis with a ban, confiscation of goods and houses, and many of their leaders were sentenced to concentration camps.

After the war the work continued, local groups were re-founded, houses were re-erected and new houses were built. Friends of Nature, still strongly connected with the social democratic parties in western countries, were again in the frontline of a political struggle: this time for the 8-hour workingday, 5-day workingweek and more paid holidays. Growing wealth in the west made all this possible, and the outdoor activities FN offered attracted more and more people.

¹ ‘... to stand besides the bourgeois alpine clubs and by asking low membershipsfee, give the opportunity to working-people to practice mountaineering ...’ (K. Renner, An der Wende zweier Zeiten, Wien, 1946)

² ‘... We want to pull the working-class-people out of the places of alcohol, gambling and playing card. We want to get them out of their small houses, the smoke of the factories and the pubs, to lead them into the wonderful nature, to let them discover beauty and happiness...’ (K. Volkert, General Assemble of Friends of Nature Austria, Vienna, 1925)

At the same time, the movement and the houses in the East were 'nationalised' by the communist regimes. Only after the fall of the wall, were the houses slowly given back to the newly re-founded local groups. Thus starting in these countries a process that took place in the west in the 60-ties.

'Friends of Nature' is now a large international organisation. With the growing wealth of the population (and also the 'working class'), many of the original political and social aims of the organisation seem to be achieved: so called 'working-class' people have paid holidays and can go to spend time outside. But now new groups (such as the deprived youth, immigrants, ...) become the target-groups the Friends of Nature. And the major interest for Friends of Nature now is the environment: once they tried to get people to the 'unspoiled nature', now that the people discovered nature, Friends of Nature continue working on protection and the sustainable use of this nature. Thus, Friends of Nature gradually became less 'red' and more 'green'. Local groups continue organising outdoor-activities (although today no longer alone in their NF-Houses), but the political action has become more ecologically focussed. IFN, the international umbrella organisation, is very active in this field. It has even obtained an advisory status in the DG for Environment of the European Commission.

Today Friends of Nature have about 700.000 members, organised in about 3500 local groups, spread over more than 25 countries, mostly in Europe. There are more than 1000 Friends of Nature -houses situated in the most beautiful natural areas in Europe and overseas.

So far the 'history-lesson'. What matters is what INF do today.

As said it functions now as a large umbrella organisation of more than 25 member organisations worldwide (though mainly still in the cradle of Central Europe). And apart from the hundreds of simultaneously run activities in local groups of the member-organisations, the umbrella itself has developed a expertise in promoting sustainable tourism.

Among the many projects that we run and that you can get more information about on the internet, one project deserves extra attention in the framework of this seminar "**The Landscape of the Year**".

The model 'Landscape of the Year' was introduced by IFN in 1989. Since then, IFN succeeded in successfully setting starting points for sustainable regional development in 10 cross-border regions throughout Europe.

Till 2006 every two years, since then every three years, the title Landscape of the Year is conferred on a European cross-border region which is rural-peripheral and ecologically endangered. The award motivates the region to shift the protection of landscape and biodiversity into the centre of regional development, elaborating and implementing appropriate regional schemes, concrete projects and measures.

This includes long-term projects as well as concrete tourism, leisure, cultural and environmental activities for local stakeholders as well as for a broader public, and also political awareness raising and advocacy at regional, national and European level.

It is a must for Landscape-of-the-Year projects to set priorities in close cooperation with the local population, as well as with the associations and institutions working in the region. Thus, all activities aim at creating stable regional structures (e.g. a regional development association) that carry out follow-up activities.

Member organisations apply to have the Landscape of the Year in their country (always together with at least one other cross-border member organisation) and, as they are appointed, play an active role as catalisator to ignite and stimulate the regional (and cross-border) cooperation and development process. Of course INF appoints a professional to work in the region, but a lot of work is done and activities are run by volunteers, members of local and regional groups of Friends of Nature.

During the years, the award has developed into a succesful 'format'. It is accompanied by intensive media work both in the region and at the European level, with reports in high quality media. Numerous individual members and groups of Friends of Nature from all over Europe, and other tourists take part in the activities, visit the region, getting a deeper insight and understanding of the region.

The actual Landscape of the Year (2007-2009) is the Danube Delta. Situated at the far east border of the European Union, the Danube Delta is one of the most fragile European sites and a hotspot of biodiversity. The by far largest part of the delta belongs to Romania the northern part to Ukrainem only a tiny part to Moldavia. In this melting pot of cultures and languages in an extraordinary remote aream the challenge for Internatinal Friends of Nature is very big: find long-term sustainable ways of regional development – both for the inhabitants and for nature.

Together with several organisations and stakeholders (Romanian Friends of Nature, Association of Ecotourism in Romania, the Biosphere Reservation Administration, WWF, the relevant ministries, local and regional authorities, etc.) we set four main action fields:

- Protecting and improving biodiversity
- Awareness raising for protection of biodiversity, especially through means of sustainable tourism
- Environmental protection and environmental education
- Sustainable development of the Danube Delta.

This is the second year of this 'Landscape of the Year'. In each of the action fields various activities have already been successfully run, some important measures have been carried out, others have just started up, for projects the search for donors is still on its way.

Some of the activities set up in the framework of LotY Danube Delta (more details: please have a look at our website):

- Conference on the development of the traffic in the Danube Delta Region (Tulcea, Ro)
- Ecological Reed-management
- Model village Crisan
- Training course for nature guides
- Redesign of visitor centres
- Building of a bird-watching platform
- International Photo Award 'The Danube and its feeding rivers'
- Booklet introducing the Landscape of the Year
- Periodical info-letter
- Model for sustainable tour packages: 'Tour d'Horizon'
- Promotion of Danube Delta LotY at travel fairs throughout Europe
- Production of instructive movie on the impacts of ad environmental conditions
- Partnerships between schools in the Danube Delta and schools in other countries
- Develop Nature Trails (IFN trail-format)
- Fish & Art Festival, 29.06.2008, Tulcea (RO)

The best way to get to understand how International Friends of Nature work is: come and join us in the Danube Delta. But in the mean time, you can follow all our projects and especially the development of the Landscape of the Year Danube Delta, on our website: www.nfi.at

**Official Declaration of the
IIIrd International Seminar on Mountain Tourism
Sustainable Tourism in the Montane Protected Areas**
Building Partnerships between NGOs and Managers of Protected Areas

organised by:
International Friends of Nature
Polish Tourist Country Lovers' Society (PTTK) – Cracow Academic Section
Institute of Tourism and Recreation, Academy of Physical Education, Cracow
in co-operation with:
Babia Gora Biosphere Reserve and Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE)

THE COMMON RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

*22 participants from 9 countries representing Ministries, NGOs, Alpine Clubs,
Tourism Offices, protected areas administrations and academic institutions,
gathered in Sucha Beskidzka (Western Carpathians) to deliberate on the topic*

**”Building partnerships between NGOs
and managers of protected areas”**
and adopted the following conclusions.

PREAMBLE

- This Declaration takes into account the results of two previous International Seminars (Zakopane 2002 and Szklarska Poręba 2005). The conclusions reached during those events remain valid.
- Other international documents, in particular the “Babia Gora Declaration on Sustainable Tourism Development in Mountain Areas” (2002), were also considered during discussions.
- Participants emphasized the importance of the project: „Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity through Sound Tourism Development in Central and Eastern Europe”, supported by UNEP/GEF, which can be regarded as a model for other montane protected areas.
- Participants also agreed to support the idea, presented by Romanian delegates, to establish a new protected area in the Tarcu Mountains (Southern Carpathians).

RATIONALE

A. Montane protected areas are essential for tourists

- Mountain tourism is one of the oldest (since 18th century in Europe) and most valuable branches of active tourism. The combination of physical effort, mountain environment and inter-personal relations improves tourists' efficiency of constitution, forms their character, develops their respect for nature and other people, provides aesthetic and spiritual emotions, etc. In addition this kind of tourism, based on the power of human muscles, simple accommodation and narrow paths can still be regarded as sustainable, and because of all the above reasons should be promoted especially amongst young people.
- Unfortunately, in many areas around the world, the space for engaging in valuable mountain tourism is diminishing year by year because of a continued process in tourism regions of frequently non-sustainable development, by the creation of new investments such as new roads, ski-lifts and related facilities, rest-centers, holiday houses, urbanization and industrialization.
- In several mountain ranges protected areas remain the last sanctuaries providing many people with joy, physical and mental recreation, opportunity for contact with unspoilt nature and deep spiritual experiences.
- Mountain nature and landscape protected in national parks, landscape parks, nature reserves etc. is also considered as an important tourist attraction. Consequently protected areas benefit tourism business in their vicinity.
- The administration of protected areas can provide logistic support for the work of tourist NGOs and help them to improve tourist facilities in a more sustainable manner.

B. Tourists are important for montane protected areas

- Historical data shows that societies of mountain tourists were often active in nature protection, some of them were even founders of protected areas.
- Mountain tourists and their societies are still among the first defenders of mountain nature against unsustainable development.
- Tourists can play the active role as "watchdogs of protected areas", that is: they can notice and report mismanagement of such areas to park administrations, other citizens, NGOs, local authorities or other political activists.
- Tourists, especially those with high ecological awareness, are the best "ambassadors of nature", spreading information and explaining the value of particular protected areas far from their boundaries.
- Local communities in protected areas often oppose the declaration of their region/place as a protected area, if it restricts their lifestyle and their activities. Tourism can be a way to engage them, and it can compensate for loss of income from un-ecological activities.

C. The special role of tourist NGOs (societies)

- NGOs can support the work of the Protected Area [PA] administration, e.g. through volunteer work.
- NGOs can provide expert knowledge.
- NGOs provide ideological support for PAs.
- NGOs can help to keep the PA area clean.
- NGOs can lobby for the PA not only on a local, but also on a regional, national and international level.
- Sustainable mountain tourism requires specific measures in order to reinforce its positive effects and avoid negative impacts. Tourist societies can be very helpful in visitor flow management and environmentally sound design and management of facilities, especially accommodation and tourist trails.

- Both sides can support each other when applying for funds for projects.

D. Reasons for misunderstandings and conflicts between tourists and managers of montane protected areas

- Insufficient ecological awareness amongst tourists (e.g. littering, damaging protected plant colonies, disturbing animals etc.) undermines the conservation efforts of park administrations.
- Prevailing traditional activities and ways of life may conflict with the regulations of a particular protected area.
- Tourists may regard protected area rules too restrictive for their individual freedom of action in that particular area.
- Often, real conflicts of interests may occur between tourists/ administrations of protected areas and e.g. economically active societies in a particular mountainous area.
- The high social value of protected areas and their statutory obligation to create suitable conditions for tourists are often misunderstood and underestimated by the public (tourists, economic activists, local communities etc.).
- Inadequate management of the protected areas, especially a lack of tourism management plans, a lack of transparent management, low communication abilities, corruption, abuse of power etc. may cause low acceptance and even opposition of local communities, tourists or other NGOs towards the park administration.
- Schematic and too restrictive approaches to tourists, which do not take into account the particular circumstances of the protected area, may result in disregard and opposition.

E. Recommendations

To implement a concept of sustainable development in montane protected areas we recommend:

For tourists, their societies and tour operators:

- to raise awareness that protected areas are necessary to save the touristic values of mountains;
- to accept the rules of nature-friendly behaviour in the montane protected areas, even if they are partly connected with limitations to tourist activities;
- to promote values of nature not only by some concrete activities, but also by nature-friendly behaviour and attitude;
- tourist facilities run by NGOs, especially mountain huts, have to be managed in a sustainable way;
- NGOs representing mountain tourists should be willing to cooperate with protected areas administrations on the local, regional, national and international level;
- to notice every kind of mismanagement of montane protected areas and to inform appropriate institutions (park administrations, NGOs etc.) about them;
- a sustainable holiday starts at home: everybody involved in the touristic chain (booking, travel, tourist operator, tourist facilities) has to play their part in sustainable tourism.

For protected areas administrations:

- to accept that mountain tourism (as understood in this document) has great social value;
- to consider that tourist societies can often be the best allies in order to protect nature and culture against degradation, especially in the case of conflicts with local or private interests;
- to encourage (as far as possible) "soft" methods in the management of tourist activities, such as friendly advice, rather than a restrictive or legalistic approach *;

- to adjust the level of restrictions to the real need of nature protection in particular places, e.g. using zonation for the protected area's territory;
- to promote educational activities in order to increase the ecological awareness of societies (local communities, youth, potential investors, young generation, tourists etc.) about the important role of nature in preserving world heritage;
- to make an effort to spread tourism activities evenly through all of the montane areas, for example by promoting areas which are not protected, where these can be sustained;
- to continually cooperate with NGOs because of their important role in lobbying (including at a national and international level) and in obtaining funds for nature protection;
- to inform tourist organisations about tourism potential and sustainable ways of visiting the natural parks and their region.

For both:

- to join efforts in order to promote nature protection and hiking culture at a local and regional level;
- to promote a model of tourism activity connected with physical effort and deep experiences, which are a result of visits by tourists to undeveloped, natural space;
- to promote mountain tourism because of its important role in the socialization of young people (such as learning to overcome temporary difficulties, interacting with other travellers, respect for nature and developing sensitivity towards its beauty);
- to be open for dialogue with all interests involved in tourism development: NGOs, representatives of local communities, potential investors etc.;
- to actively participate in the process of tourism development at local and/or regional level;
- to support the creation of local ecological friendly products for tourists;
- to disseminate information about good practice in sustainable tourism through mass-media, other communication channels, at international conferences and exchanges of staff and activists.

APPEAL

We appeal to all stakeholders

– especially tourist associations, protected area administrations, and local communities involved in mountain tourism –

to intensify international and regional co-operation in know-how transfer, to exchange experiences and to assist developing regions in preparing and implementing strategies of sustainable tourism for all montane protected areas.

Appendix 1

GEF-UNEP Project 'Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity through Sound Tourism Development in Biosphere Reserves in Central and Eastern Europe'

Overall project implementation: Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE), Germany

Project partners:

Country Executing Agencies: Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development, Hungary (EISD), Friends of Babia Góra Association, Poland (FoBGA), Institute of Systems Biology and Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ISBE)

Country partners: Aggtelek BR, Hungary, Babia Góra BR, Poland, Šumava BR, Czech Republic

Duration: March 2005 until May 2008

Project website: www.tourism4nature.org

Project goals

The project aims at strengthening the protection of globally significant mountain ecosystems in the three Biosphere Reserves Babia Góra, Aggtelek and Šumava through the development of new tools and innovative management systems with a special focus on tourism-related uses of these important sites.

Model case for implementing the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development

The project is a model case for the implementation of the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development. As such, the project demonstrates in which way local development related to tourism can contribute to the biosphere reserves' goal of sustainability. Various new approaches are being tested that represent incentives for sustainable economic activities in the field of tourism. The ecological, economic and social impacts of tourism-related activities is monitored by newly developed indicators.

While one of the main project goals is clearly the conservation of biodiversity, the main focus of the project's activities lies on demonstrating the benefits of biosphere reserves and in this frame developing tools not only to measure these benefits but also to communicate the relevance of ecosystem services to a broader public.

Involvement of stakeholders

In the process of strengthening the role of the Biosphere Reserves, partnerships with governmental authorities, the private sector and NGOs are being built. The efforts made in the frame of the project to improve recognition and support of the governments for the Biosphere Reserves is resulting in a consultation process on local and national level about the future enhancement of the Biosphere Reserves as testing sites for sustainable tourism development within the three countries and beyond.

While Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE, Bonn/Germany) is coordinating the project's implementation, the activities are being implemented by the three Biosphere Reserves in partnership with regional NGOs working in the field of ecology, environmental conservation and tourism development. The national parks within the Biosphere Reserves contribute with their staff's expertise on environmental issues, regional spatial management and regional tourism development. All activities are carried out together with local, regional and national partners and stakeholders of biodiversity

conservation and tourism development, including the cross-border protected area partners and the surrounding local communities.

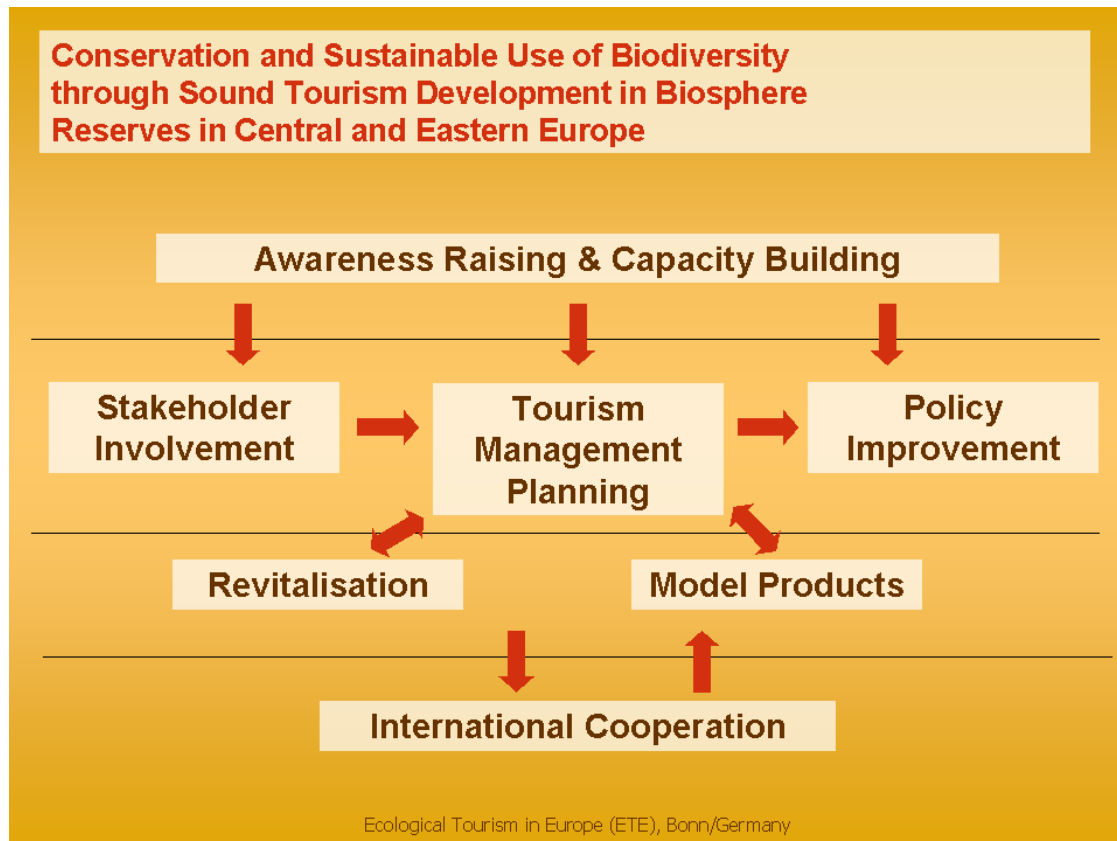
Transboundary cooperation

The project aims at fostering the cooperation of the three BRs with their respective neighbouring protected areas on the other side of the border in Germany and Slovakia. The partners are for Aggtelek BR (Hungary) the Slovak Karst BR, Slovakia, for the Babia Góra BR (Poland) the Horna Orava Protected Landscape Area (Slovakia) and for the Šumava BR (Czech Republic) the Bavarian Forest BR (Germany).



Project activities

Throughout the project, numerous activities are being carried out. In all three Biosphere Reserves the core activity is the development of a tourism management plan together with the key stakeholders. This process is being accompanied by awareness raising and capacity building programmes, model initiatives of sustainable tourism development and the elaboration and testing of indicators, guidelines and manuals for sustainable tourism development. The activities are complemented by various scientific studies in the field of ecosystem services and tourism. Of especial importance is the study on the institutional and management framework of the three Biosphere Reserve.



Interim Results

Four main guiding documents and a study have been elaborated and published by the project partners:

- The Trail Planning Guide. An insight into the process of planning interpretative trails. Principles and Recommendations.
- Sustainable Tourism Management Planning in Biosphere Reserves - A methodology guide.
- Sustainable Tourism - Training the Trainers Program.
- Criteria for Sustainable Tourism for the three Biosphere Reserves Aggtelek, Babia Góra and Šumava.
- Background Study on institutional and management frameworks in the Biosphere Reserves Aggtelek (Hungary), Babia Góra (Poland) and Šumava (Czech Republic).

All publications are available as pdf documents at www.tourism4nature.org.

In the three BRs, a range of guiding documents and studies have been prepared related to the following topics:

- Criteria and indicators on BR level & Monitoring
- Activity-related guidelines and criteria
- Methodologies, road maps, communication plans
- BR institution and management
- Legal and institutional framework
- Ecophysiology, land use
- Tourism potentials and risks (impact assessment)
- Carrying capacity, market surveys and potentials

- Local culture and needs for capacity building

The model initiatives of sustainable tourism development that are being carried out within the frame of the project are related to the following issues:

- Tourist trails
- Visitor centres
- Tourism infrastructure
- Local Bus Line
- Certification and labelling schemes
- Training programmes (sustainable tourism, guiding, handicrafts, organic farming, etc.)
- Revitalisation of local culture (architecture, handicrafts, agriculture/horticulture)
- Marketing and promotion of sustainable tourism

Contact

More information about the project, the biosphere reserves and the project activities and outcomes can be obtained at

www.tourism4nature.org

or contact:

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